Ohimesama no Yurikago

By YACHI [illegible]

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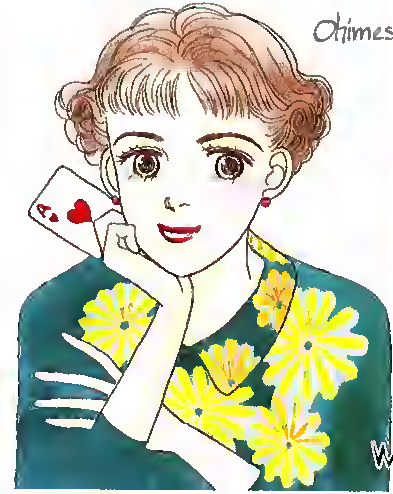

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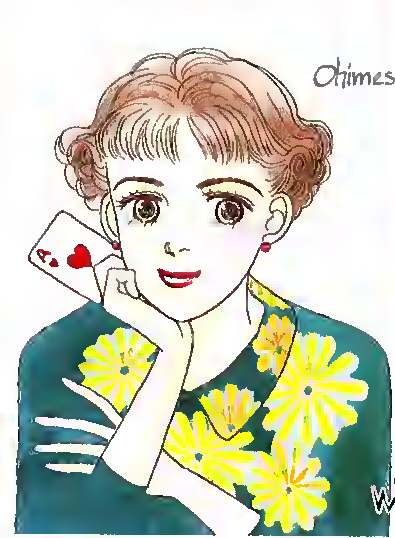

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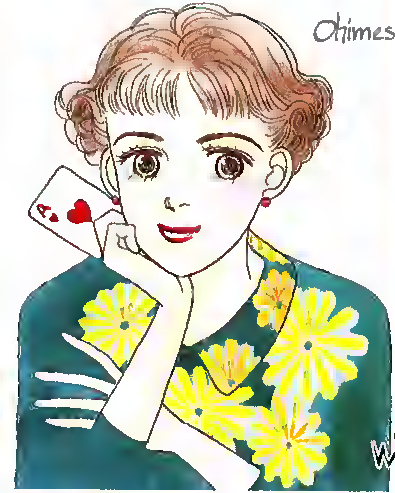

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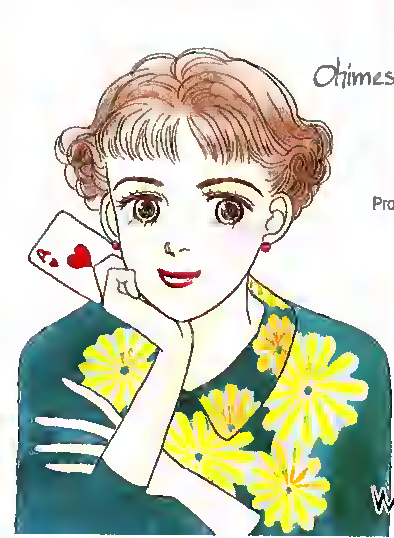

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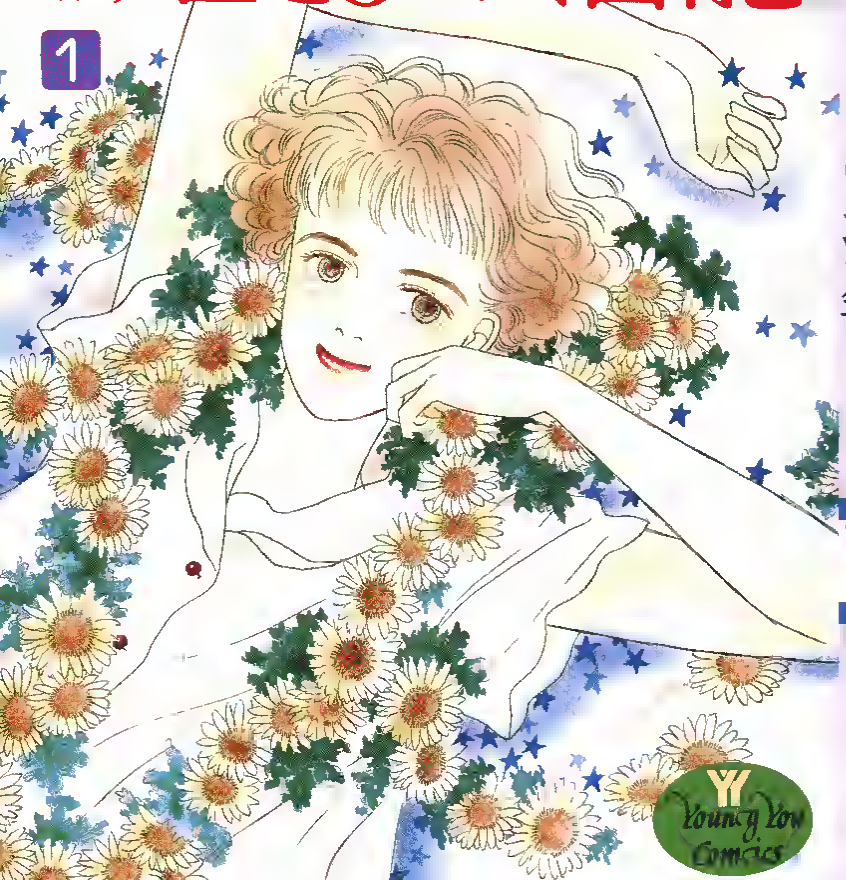
お姫さまの揺籠（ゆりかご）

1



お姫さまの揺籠（ゆりかご）
1

ヤングユー
コミックス

谷地恵美子

175
集英社

Young You Comics

強運の16歳、千珠子。ジャーナリストの父親とラスベガスで暮らしていたが、その父親が急死!! 伯父を頼って日本に帰ることになって……!!
漢字は苦手だけど、好奇心はひと一倍。大学生の逸さんに憧れる千珠子のラブ・ハードボイルド大冒険①巻っ!!

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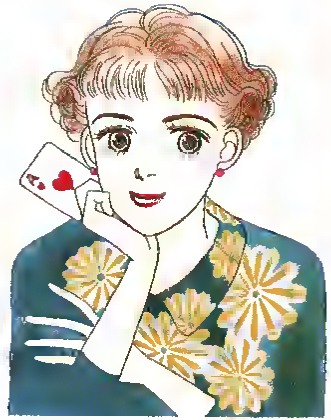

［収録作品］
お姫さまの揺籠 SCENE.1 （ヤングユー54年6月号）
お姫さまの揺籠 SCENE.2 （ヤングユー54年7月号）
お姫さまの揺籠 SCENE.3 （ヤングユー54年9月号）
お姫さまの揺籠 SCENE.4 （ヤングユー54年11月号）

young you comics
special pin-up

お姫さまの揺籠①
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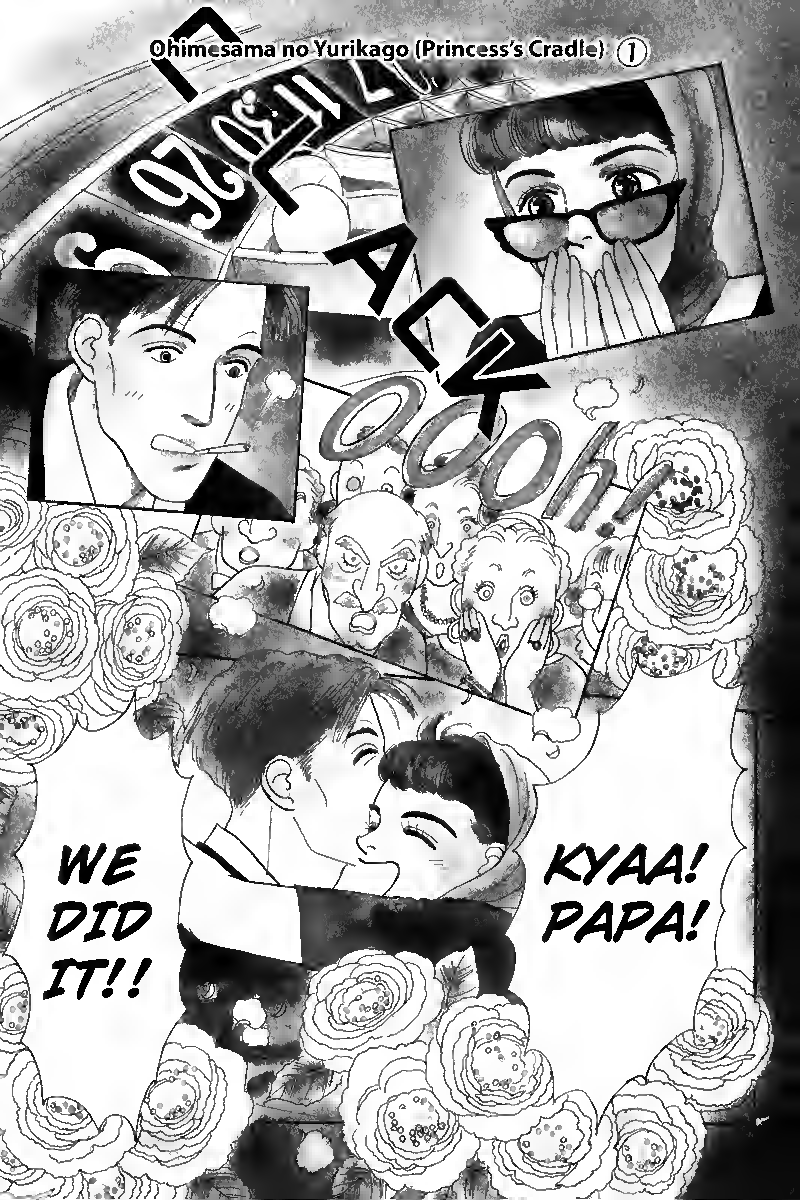
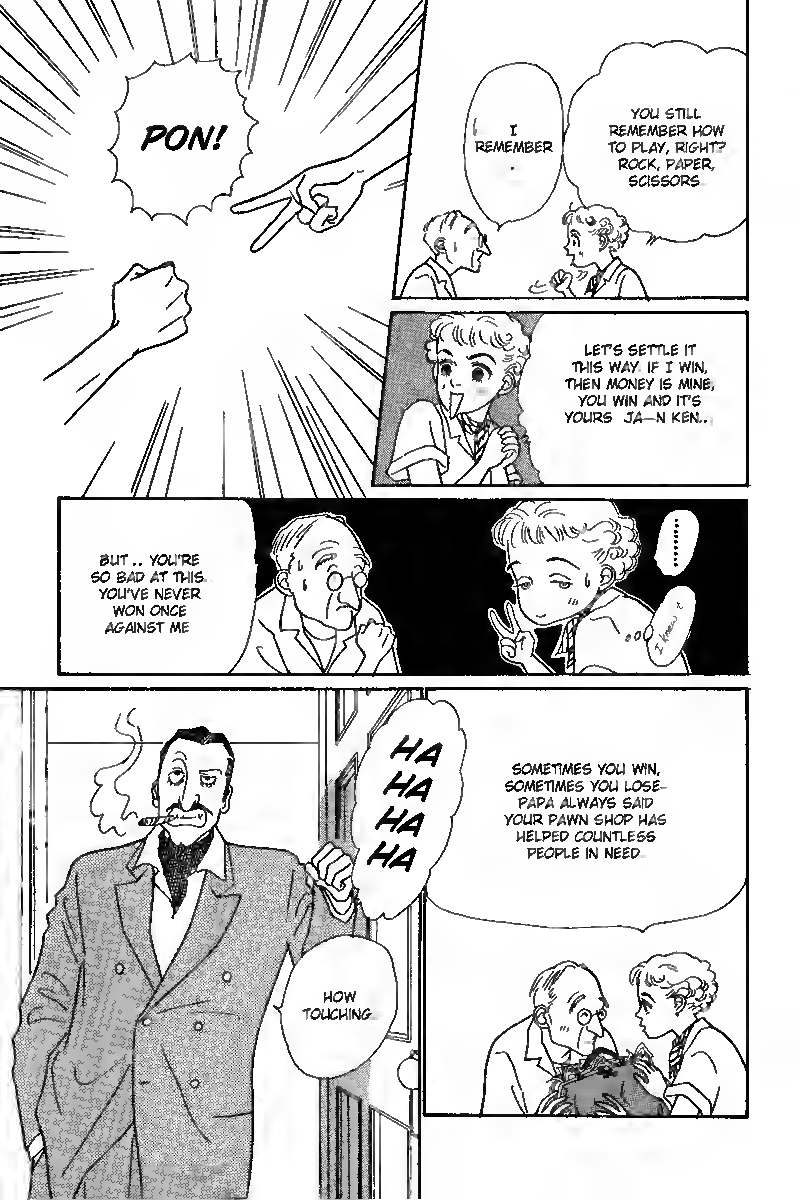

ガチャ
ALK
Ooh!
WE DID IT!!
KYAA! PAPA!

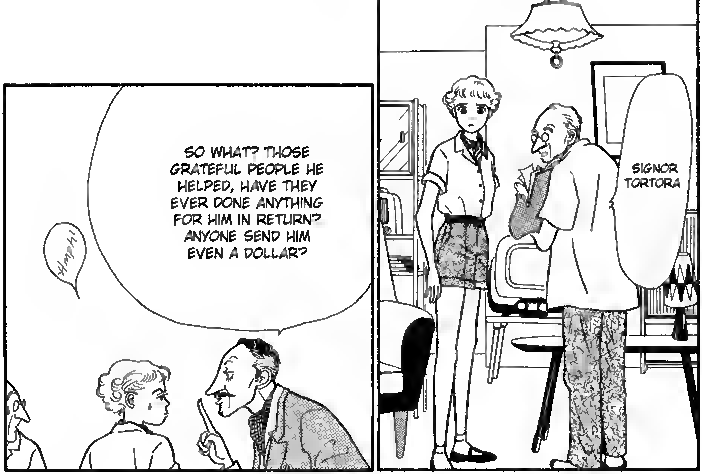
Ohimesama no Yurikago
(Princess's Cradle)
Scene-1
YACHI Emiko

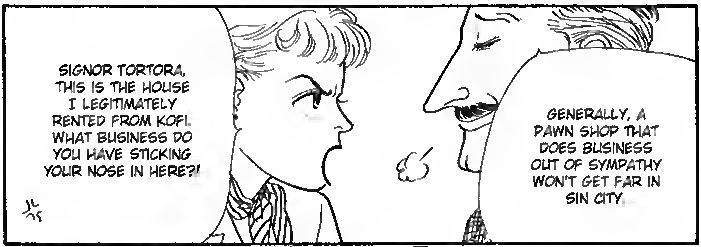
TRULY
I CAN'T TELL
IF THIS IS A GOOD THING OR BAD THING ...

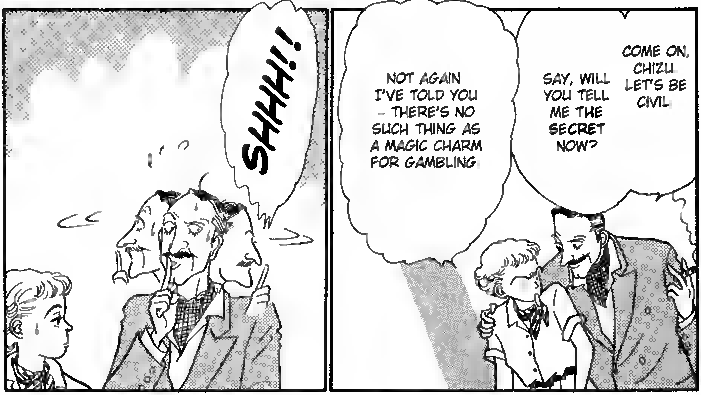
GOLD&SILVER
PAWN shop
BUY...SALE
BUT HE WON $300,000 IN ONE NIGHT
AND KOFI WON'T LOSE HIS SHOP TO TORTORA ANYMORE.
DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO THINK? IT'S DEFINITELY BAD LUCK. THE GUY WAS ONLY 43, YOU KNOW. HE WAS TOO YOUNG TO SUDDENLY DROP DEAD AND LEAVE A 16-YEAR-OLD GIRL TO FEND FOR HERSELF
KOFI?!
WHY IS ALL THE MONEY STILL HERE?!

.....
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY... IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
YOSHIKI DIED AND LEFT YOU ALONE
IT'S OKAY, CHIZU ENOUGH ABOUT THE SHOP... YOU NEED THAT MONEY FOR YOURSELF NOW.
I THOUGHT YOU ALREADY PAID THAT BLOODSUCKER TORTORA BACK.
KOFI KEPT THINKING IT WAS HIS FAULT PAPA HAD A HEART ATTACK.
I'VE TOLD YOU MANY TIMES THAT PAPA'S HEART ATTACK WAS NOT YOUR FAULT.
AND IT WAS A GOOD TEN DAYS AFTER THAT NIGHT BEFORE HE GOT SICK
RIGHT! KOFI, LET'S DO JANKEN*!
WHAT DO I DO? PAPA ALREADY WON $300,000. WILL IT ALL GO TO WASTE?
PAPA NEVER GAMBLED, BUT WENT TO THE CASINO THAT NIGHT BECAUSE HE WANTED TO SAVE KOFI'S SHOP
*A hand game played like rock, paper scissors


PON!
I REMEMBER
YOU STILL REMEMBER HOW TO PLAY, RIGHT? ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS
LET'S SETTLE IT THIS WAY. IF I WIN, THEN MONEY IS MINE, YOU WIN AND IT'S YOURS JA—N KEN..
BUT .. YOU'RE SO BAD AT THIS. YOU'VE NEVER WON ONCE AGAINST ME
.....
I know it
SOMETIMES YOU WIN, SOMETIMES YOU LOSE— PAPA ALWAYS SAID YOUR PAWN SHOP HAS HELPED COUNTLESS PEOPLE IN NEED
HA HA HA HA
HOW TOUCHING


SIGNOR TORTORA
SO WHAT? THOSE GRATEFUL PEOPLE HE HELPED, HAVE THEY EVER DONE ANYTHING FOR HIM IN RETURN? ANYONE SEND HIM EVEN A DOLLAR?
Hmph!


SIGNOR TORTORA, THIS IS THE HOUSE I LEGITIMATELY RENTED FROM KOFI. WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE STICKING YOUR NOSE IN HERE?!
GENERALLY, A PAWN SHOP THAT DOES BUSINESS OUT OF SYMPATHY WON'T GET FAR IN SIN CITY.


SHHH!!
NOT AGAIN I'VE TOLD YOU – THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A MAGIC CHARM FOR GAMBLING
SAY, WILL YOU TELL ME THE SECRET NOW?
COME ON, CHIZU LET'S BE CIVIL

AT FIRST, I DIDN'T BELIEVE SUCH A THING EXISTED.
BUT I, TOO, WAS THERE THE NIGHT YOUR PAPA WON THE JACKPOT
YOU WERE IN DISGUISE STICKING CLOSE TO HIM THE WHOLE TIME
YOU DIDN'T LOOK LIKE YOU WERE 21 YET, ANYWAY.
AND I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY WASN'T PURE LUCK.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOUR PAPA KNEW BEFOREHAND.
HE WAS COOL AS A CUCUMBER WHEN HE HIT THE JACKPOT
AND I BELIEVE IT WHEN HE SAID...
hic
IT'S ALRIGHT
GO NG
hic
I HAVE LADY LUCK ON MY SIDE I NEVER LOSE.
SIGNOR TORTORA, AREN'T YOU A ROMANTIC.

PAPA SPOUTED NONSENSE BECAUSE YOU GOT HIM DRUNK
YOU KNEW PAPA HAD PROBLEM WITH HIS HEART, AND YET YOU ENCOURAGED HIM TO DRINK. THAT IS ALREADY REASON ENOUGH FOR ME NOT TO FORGIVE YOU.
USE YOUR HEAD FOR A SECOND HERE
THIS IS LAS VEGAS WHERE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE COME TO GET RICH.
SERIOUSLY, IF PAPA HAD SUCH A LUCKY CHARM, WHY WOULD WE RENT A ROOM ABOVE A PAWN SHOP?
Ha
B-BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S JUST A FLUKE! I'VE BEEN IN THE BUSINESS LONG ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE IT
AH.
CRAP! I'M GOING TO BE LATE FOR WORK SIGNOR TORTORA, IT'S BEST THAT YOU STOP FANTASIZING OVER SUCH THINGS. GOOD BYE

BANG
.....
SUS-
PICI-
OUS
PHEW
SIGNOR TORTORA!
NOTHING BUT NONSENSE
AH!
CHIZU, ARE YOU ALRIGHT? WHAT WAS HE TRYING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT?
YOU FORGOT THIS!

WILLING TO GIVE THIS MUCH MONEY FOR SOMEONE ELSE IS REALLY SUSPICIOUS.
.....
AH, CHIZU YOU'VE GOT A PHONE CALL FROM JAPAN
quickly
quickly
FROM JAPAN?

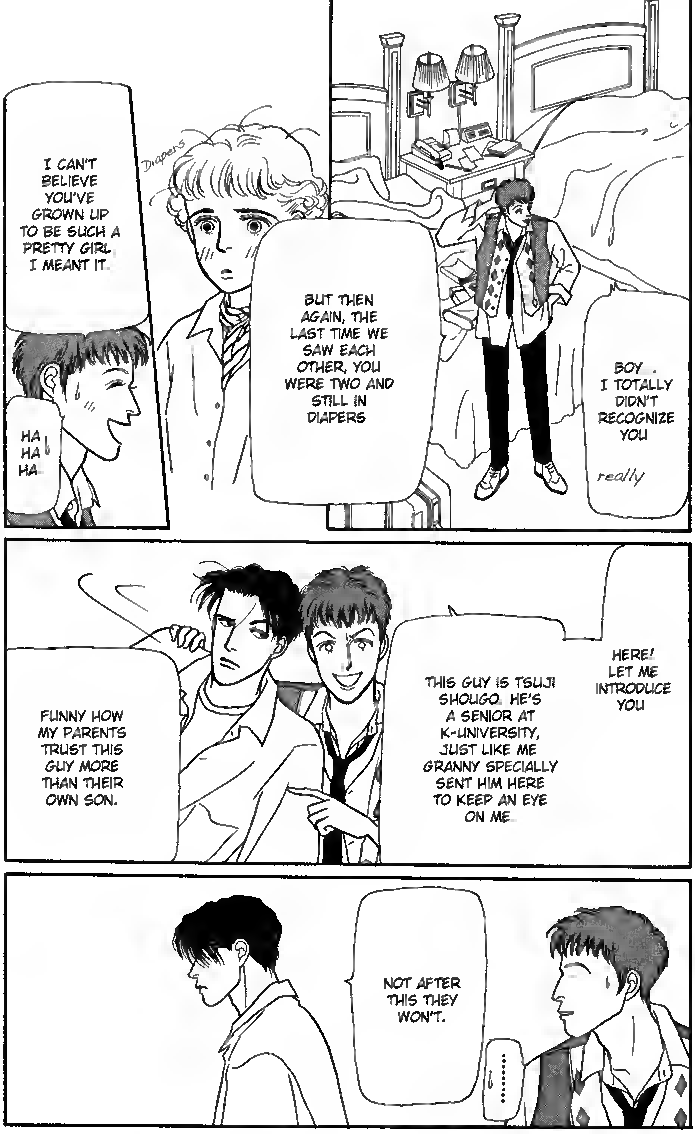
THANKS.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. YOU'VE SWAPPED SHIFTS WITH ME MANY TIMES
SORRY, PATTY MAKE UP AN EXCUSE FOR ME. Please
YOU'RE TAKING TODAY OFF?
HOW SUDDEN YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE.
YOSHIKI TADASHI.
BUT.
YOUR COUSIN... ERR.
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE THREE DAYS AGO. WHEN I TOLD HER HE HADN'T ARRIVED YET, SHE SOUNDED SO SURPRISED.
YEAH, MY GRANDMA TOLD ME OVER THE PHONE.
THIS TADASHI GUY, IS HE REALLY COMING TO VEGAS?
JOHNSON'S
HAMBURGER
Restaurant

IT DOES SOUND WORRISOME
ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK AROUND THE HOTEL, CHIZU?
I HAVE THE NAME OF THEIR HOTEL, SO I'LL START THERE.
I FEAR SHE MIGHT HAVE A HEART ATTACK
LATELY THERE'VE BEEN MANY ACCIDENTS WITH JAPANESE TOURISTS IN THE U.S.
ME TOO.
I HOPE NOTHING HAPPENED TO HIM.
ARGHHH!
I LOST AGAINN NN!!

PAT
I KNEW I'D FIND YOU HERE, YOSHIKI.
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D GO TO SEE YOUR COUSIN TODAY?
TH-THERE'S THAT...
BUT I HAVE TO GET BACK SOME OF WHAT I LOST...
DO THAT AFTER YOU'RE DONE WITH WHAT YOU CAME HERE TO DO.
THAT IS WHAT I'M DOING... YOU SEE.
It's kinda complicated. Heh heh
YOSHIKI.
WHAT DID YOU MEAN?
I TOLD YOU I WAS BUSY! AT LEAST LET ME WIN BACK SOME OF WHAT I LOST.
FOR CHIZUKO'S PLANE TICKET, THAT IS. GRANNY ENTRUSTED IT TO ME. IF I DON'T HAVE IT I WON'T BE ABLE TO FACE HER, YOU KNOW.

GONE TOO
YOU TRADED YOUR COUSIN'S TICKET FOR GAMBLING MONEY? WHAT ABOUT YOURS?
SORRY
YOSHIKI, IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, I KEPT MY TICKET IN THE HOTEL'S SAFE DEPOSIT BOX ALONG WITH YOURS, DIDN'T I?
YOSHI-KI...!
WHAA! CALM DOWN, TSUJI!
IT'S ALRIGHT! I'LL WIN THIS TIME. LADY LUCK WILL SMILE ON ME!

お姫さまの揺籠(ゆりかご)①


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'VE GROWN UP TO BE SUCH A PRETTY GIRL. I MEANT IT.
HA HA HA
Diapers
BUT THEN AGAIN, THE LAST TIME WE SAW EACH OTHER, YOU WERE TWO AND STILL IN DIAPERS
BOY . I TOTALLY DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU
really
FUNNY HOW MY PARENTS TRUST THIS GUY MORE THAN THEIR OWN SON.
THIS GUY IS TSUJI SHOUGO. HE'S A SENIOR AT K-UNIVERSITY, JUST LIKE ME GRANNY SPECIALLY SENT HIM HERE TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME.
HERE! LET ME INTRODUCE YOU
NOT AFTER THIS THEY WON'T.
.....

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING BACK TO JAPAN. SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY TICKET.
YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK TO JAPAN?
NO
B-BUT MY FATHER SAID HE TALKED TO YOU WHEN HE WAS HERE FOR THE FUNERAL
COME BACK TO JAPAN AND LIVE WITH US.
BUT I CAME TO THE U.S. WHEN I WAS THREE. I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF JAPAN.
I LIKE MY CLASSMATES, TOO.
AND I HAVE MANY FRIENDS HERE

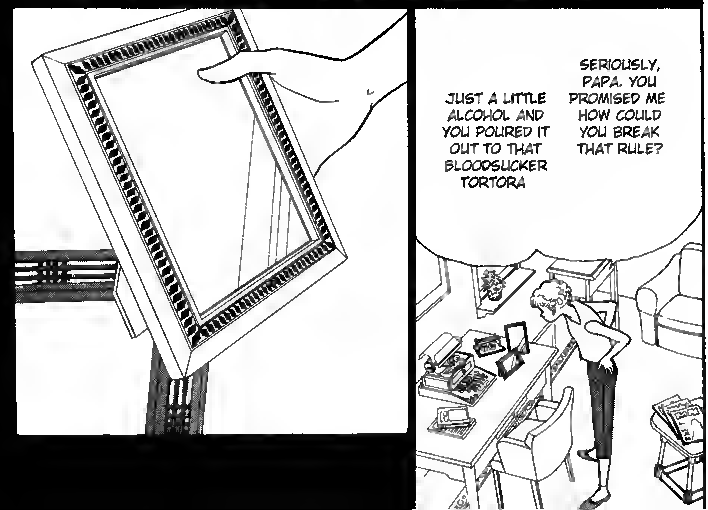
YOU'RE SO PRAGMATIC
DON'T WORRY. I WORK AND I HAVE SOME MONEY SAVED UP, PLUS PAPA'S LIFE INSURANCE. I'LL LIVE FRUGALLY BUT COMFORTABLY
BUT HOW ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE BY YOURSELF?
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE IN TEARS SINCE YOUR FATHER JUST DIED.
IT SEEMS I WAS WORRIED FOR NOTHING.
YOSHIKI!

HM?
ONE CAN'T KEEP CRYING FOREVER.
TADASHI-SAN, PLEASE CALL YOUR HOME IN JAPAN.
GRANDMA WAS AFRAID SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO YOU. SHE SEEMED A LITTLE CONCERNED.
AH HEY... ARE YOU LEAVING?
I HAVE WORK
SURE
AND DON'T EVEN DREAM OF GETTING ANYTHING BACK FROM THE CASINO

BANG
SHE LOOKS MORE CAPABLE THAN YOU.
.....
GOLDEN NUGGET GAMBLING HALL
$50,000 LIMIT
CASINO
THIS COULD BE DANGEROUS.
PAPA, YOUR NEPHEW ISN'T LIKE YOU AT ALL. HE SEEMS TO LOVE GAMBLING.

EVERYONE WANTS TO FIND TREASURE
BECAUSE THEY DREAM. THEY THINK THAT EVEN IN A PIT, THEY'LL FIND THE LIGHT
THAT'S SCARY. SO WHY DON'T PEOPLE STOP GAMBLING?"
IT'S LIKE A HOLE SUCKING YOU IN."

I ALREADY HAVE MY TREASURE
IT'S YOU, MY GIRL HA HA HA HA
SHOP
WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU WANT TO FIND TREASURE?"


JUST A LITTLE ALCOHOL AND YOU POURED IT OUT TO THAT BLOODSUCKER TORTORA
SERIOUSLY, PAPA. YOU PROMISED ME HOW COULD YOU BREAK THAT RULE?

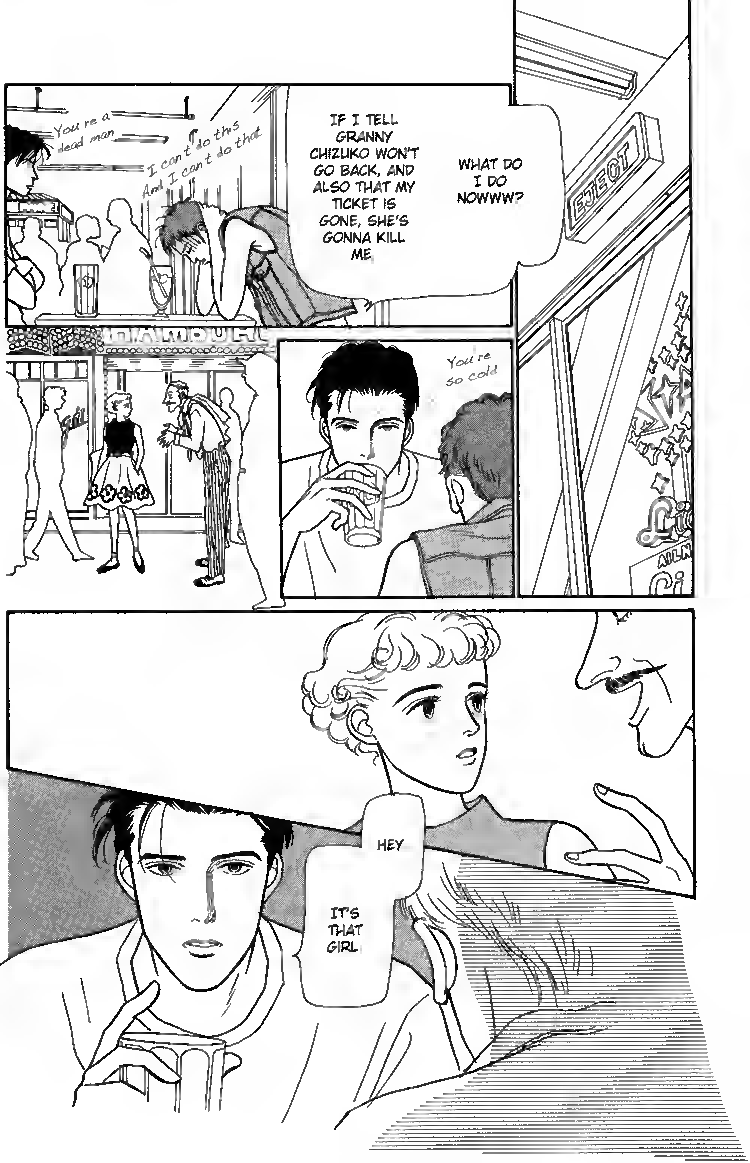
PAPA,
HAVE YOU MET UP WITH MAMA IN HEAVEN?
NO! I'M A BIG GIRL!
ENOUGH
AH!
SHAKES
I HAVE NO ONE IN JAPAN.
BUT HERE I HAVE KOFI, MRS. REVY, AND PATTY. I'M NOT ALONE!

インテリア大好きっ！

あんまし
こだわらないなあ
めんどうくさがりやな
もんで…

みるのは
好きですけどね
はい

シンプルと
使いやすさが
基本でしょ うん


You're a dead man
I can't do this And I can't do that
IF I TELL GRANNY CHIZUKO WON'T GO BACK, AND ALSO THAT MY TICKET IS GONE, SHE'S GONNA KILL ME
WHAT DO I DO NOWWW?
EXIT
You're so cold
HEY
IT'S THAT GIRL

①
AH!
NOT A FRIEND FOR SURE
SCRAPE
FROM HIS LOOKS, DOESN'T HE REMIND YOU OF THE MAFIOSO IN THE MOVIES?
SHE KNOWS GUYS LIKE THAT TOO?
Really
THAT BAS-TARD!

ATTACK!
SHOULDN'T YOU TALK TO HIM FIRST?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, CHIZUKO?!
SIGNOR TORTORA!!
GEH! HIS FRIENDS ARE COMING

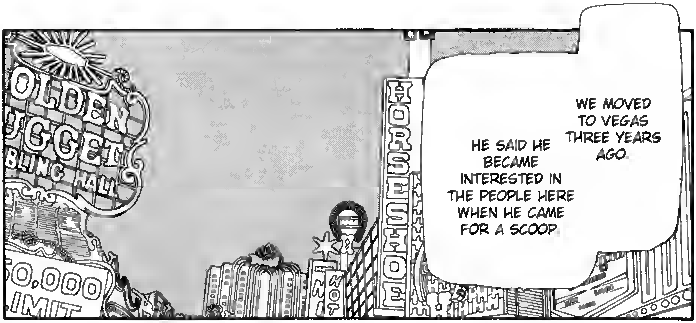
①
RUUUU UUN!!
Dgggassssshh
MBURGERS
LAS VEGAS BLVD
THIS WAY.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

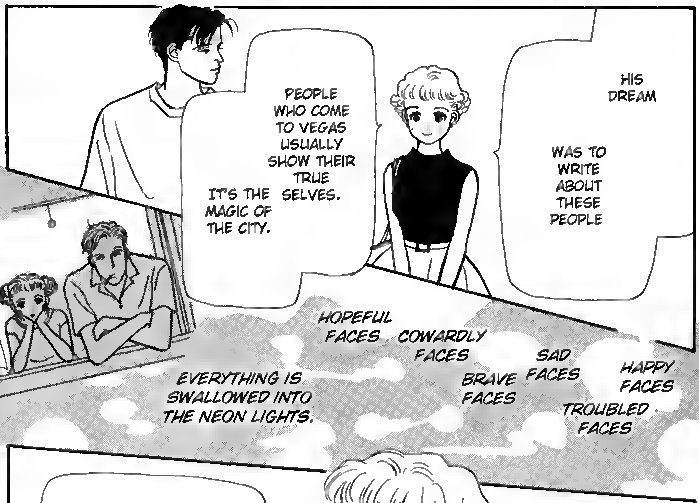
WE SHOULD BE OKAY NOW...
SUDDENLY ATTACKING HIM LIKE THAT WAS RECKLESS, TADASHI-SAN
HUFF
HUFF
IT'S BECAUSE I SAW HIM MAKING A PASS AT YOU
BUT
THANK YOU, THEN.
WHO WAS THAT GUY? HE LOOKS LIKE A MAFIOSO
NO KIDDING?
AM...AM...AM I GOING TO GET KILLED?
HIS NAME IS TORTORA. HE'S A FAMOUS GAMBLER AROUND HERE
HE'S NOT A BAD GUY. HE MAY LOOK FIERCE BUT HE'S REALLY A VERY ROMANTIC GUY.
And he faints while watching Mafia movies
THEN WHAT DID THAT ROMANTIC GAMBLER WANT FROM YOU?

Oops!
HE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PAPA'S SECRET THAT WON HIM $300,000 IN ONE NIGHT.
Viva Las Vegas!
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THAT! HE JUST GOT LUCKY, THAT'S ALL!
INCREDIBLE! AND THERE'S A SECRET TO IT?!
$300,000 IN ONE NIGHT?!
CLEARLY.
LISTEN, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF LUCK. YOU'RE JUST NO GOOD AT GAMBLING.
SO YOU SAY
BUT $300,000 IN ONE NIGHT IS JUST TOO GOOD.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING TO IT.
...I KNEW THAT ALRE-ADY

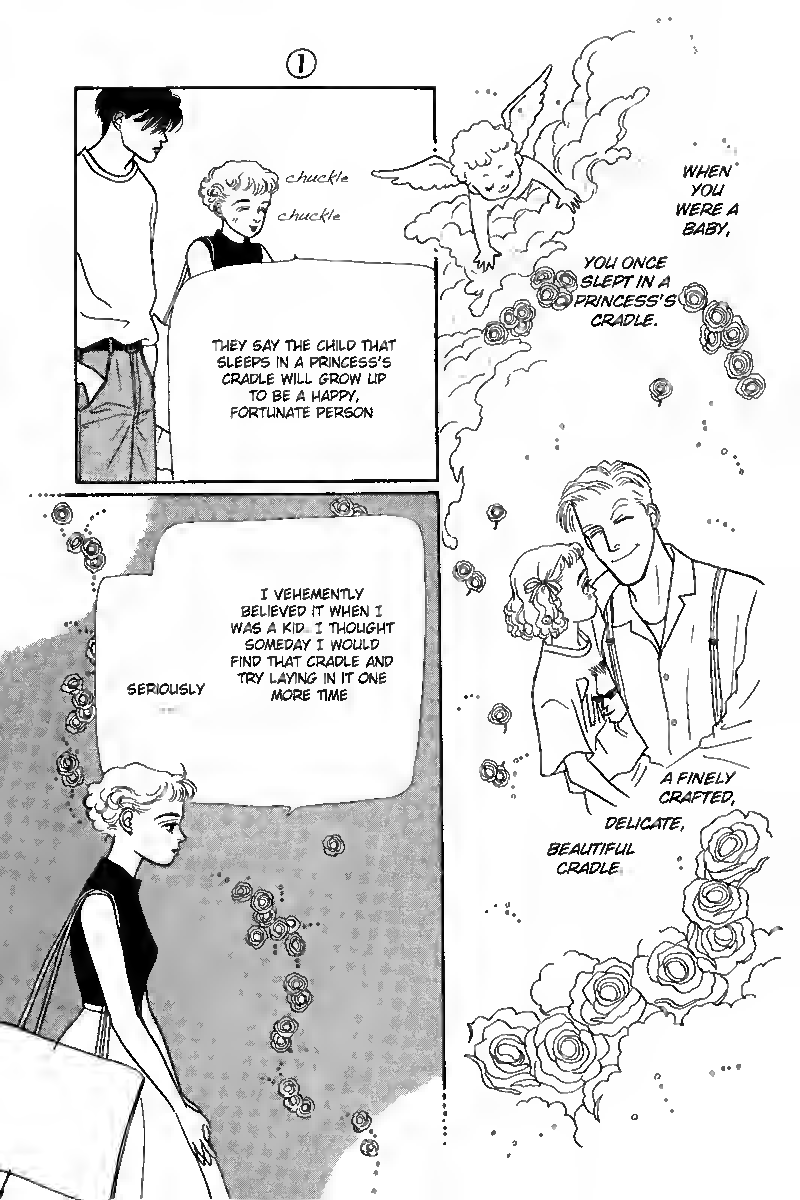
Wallet
NOOLWORTH'S
UHM... I'M THIRSTY
I'M GOING TO GET SOME JUICE FROM THAT SUPERMARKET
?
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS!
Ha ha ha
LEAVING A WALLET WITH HIM IS TOO DANGEROUS
JUST LIKE PAPA
.....
I DON'T LIKE GAMBLING
TSUJI-SAN, DON'T YOU GAMBLE?

AH, PAPA ONLY WANTED TO WIN ¥300,000 TO REPAY KOFI'S KINDNESS
.....
BUT HOW DID HE KNOW HE WOULD WIN?
HE WORKED FOR TOUTO NEWSPAPERS AND WAS STATIONED IN D C WHEN I WAS THREE.
HOW TO SAY IT...? A HUNCH, MAYBE..?
JOURNALIST'S HUNCH. HE USED TO BE ONE.
DURING THAT TIME, HE USED TO TRAVEL EVERYWHERE.
MAMA AND I HARDLY EVER SAW HIM.
WHEN MAMA DIED SIX YEARS AGO, HE RESIGNED AND BECAME A FREELANCE JOURNALIST
SO THAT HE COULD SPEND MORE TIME WITH ME...


WE MOVED TO VEGAS THREE YEARS AGO.
HE SAID HE BECAME INTERESTED IN THE PEOPLE HERE WHEN HE CAME FOR A SCOOP.

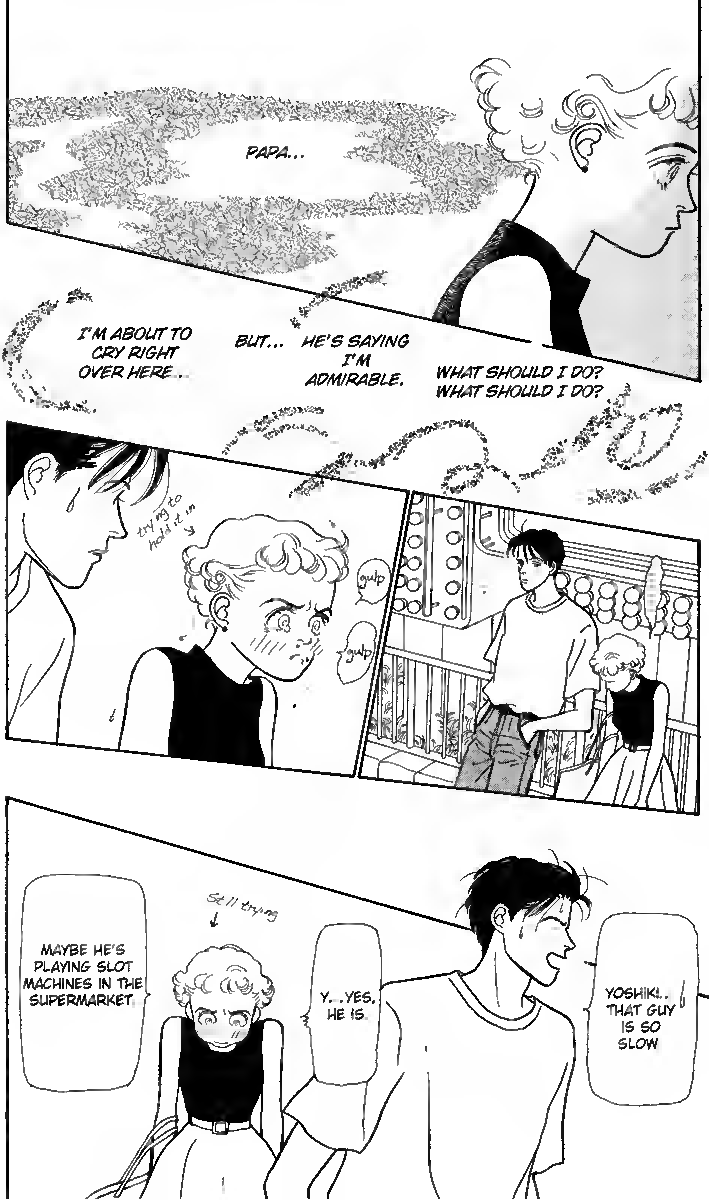

PEOPLE WHO COME TO VEGAS USUALLY SHOW THEIR TRUE SELVES.
IT'S THE MAGIC OF THE CITY.
HIS DREAM
WAS TO WRITE ABOUT THESE PEOPLE
HOPEFUL FACES
COWARDLY FACES
SAD FACES
HAPPY FACES
BRAVE FACES
TROUBLED FACES
EVERYTHING IS SWALLOWED INTO THE NEON LIGHTS.

YOU KNOW WHAT HE USED TO SAY WHEN I WAS UPSET?
Oh
PAPA WAS A VERY ROMANTIC PERSON.


1
chuckle
chuckle
THEY SAY THE CHILD THAT SLEEPS IN A PRINCESS'S CRADLE WILL GROW UP TO BE A HAPPY, FORTUNATE PERSON
WHEN YOU WERE A BABY,
YOU ONCE SLEPT IN A PRINCESS'S CRADLE.
I VEHEMENTLY BELIEVED IT WHEN I WAS A KID. I THOUGHT SOMEDAY I WOULD FIND THAT CRADLE AND TRY LAYING IN IT ONE MORE TIME
SERIOUSLY
A FINELY CRAFTED, DELICATE, BEAUTIFUL CRADLE

AHAHAHA. A COLD PERSON LIKE ME SAYING THOSE THINGS... FUNNY...
AH, SORRY. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SPOKEN SO MUCH JAPANESE SO MUCH SINCE PAPA DIED
YOU'RE NOT A COLD PERSON

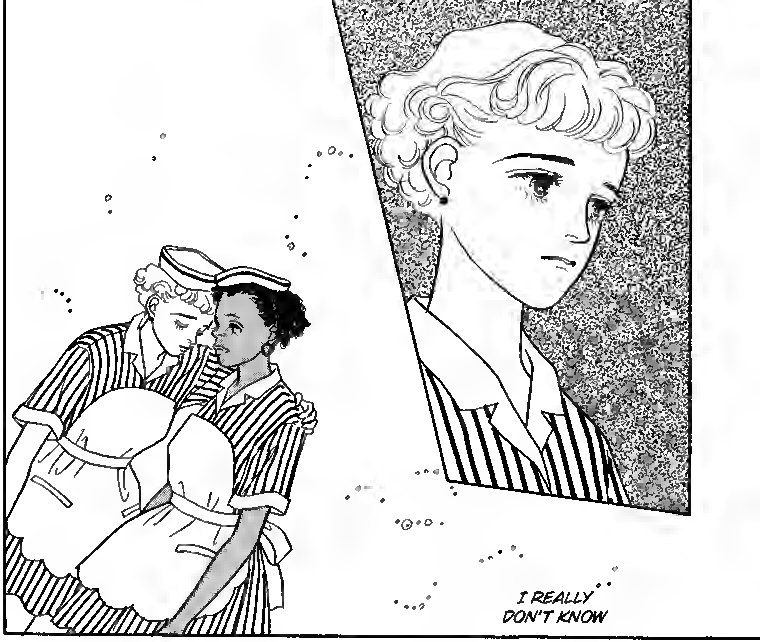
1
A COLD PERSON WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT HER FATHER'S DREAM SO PASSIONATELY
YOU JUST KNOW THAT YOU HAVE TO BE STRONG
I THINK YOU'RE VERY ADMIRABLE

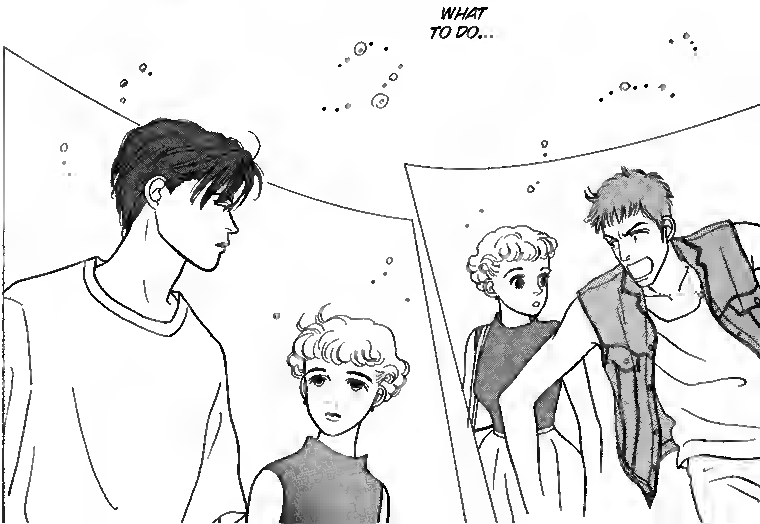

PAPA...
I'M ABOUT TO CRY RIGHT OVER HERE..
BUT... HE'S SAYING I'M ADMIRABLE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT SHOULD I DO?
try not to look at it
gulp
gulp
MAYBE HE'S PLAYING SLOT MACHINES IN THE SUPERMARKET
Still trying
Y...YES, HE IS.
YOSHIKI.. THAT GUY IS SO SLOW

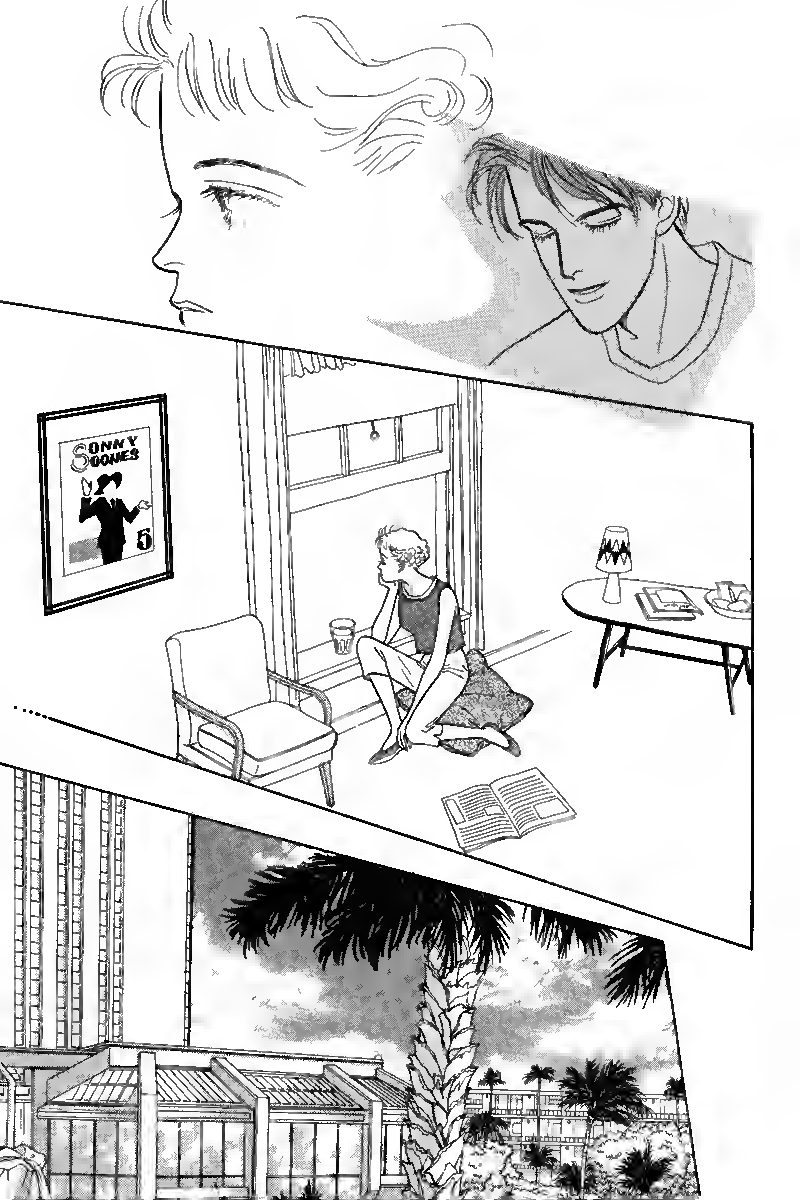
AH! I FORGOT THERE'RE SLOT MACHINES EVERYWHERE IN THIS TOWN!
!
Slots?
AH HA HA HA
AND TADASHI GOT HIS BUTT WHIPPED ONE MORE TIME.
NOW HE'S FLAT OUT BROKE.
HUH?
CHIZU !
HA HA HA HA
HOW CAN HE GO BACK TO JAPAN NOW?
HM, CHIZU?

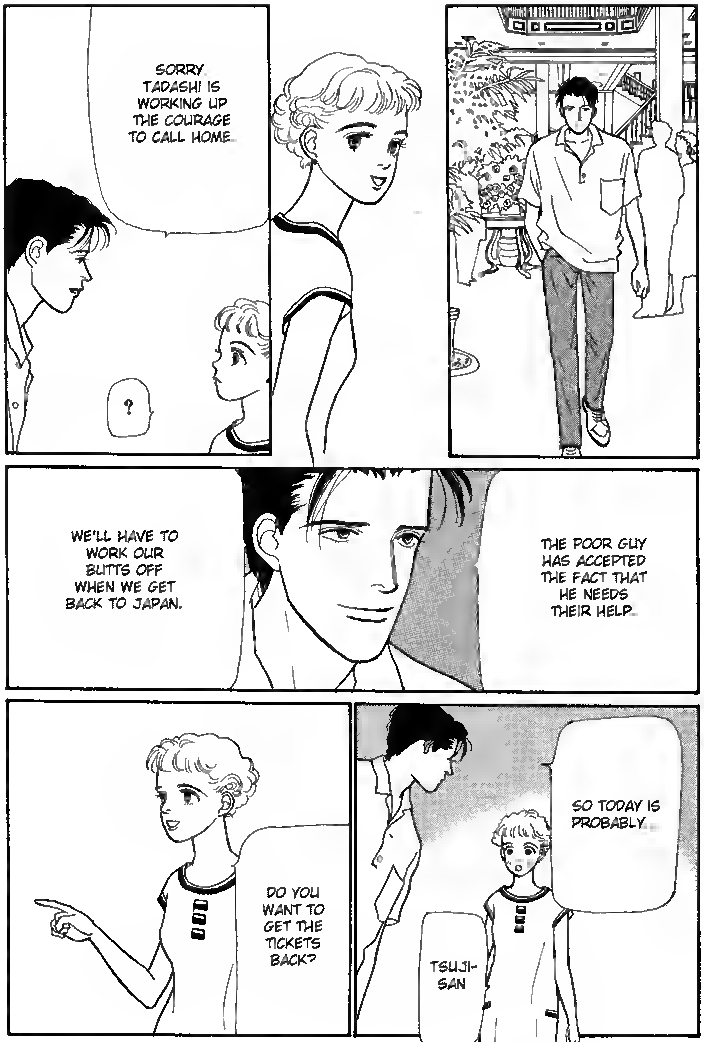
WHAT IS IT, PATTY?
CHIZU...
ARE YOU... GOING BACK TO JAPAN?
I... REALLY DON'T KNOW, PATTY
.....

JAN KEN. .
IF YOU WIN YOU CAN GO BACK TO JAPAN. IF YOU LOSE YOU HAVE TO STAY HERE.
OKAY?
CHIZU.
LET'S PLAY JANKEN!
PO
N
AH HA HA HA, AS EXPECTED, I WON!
AND YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME!
REALLY. WHY IS IT THAT I NEVER WIN?
WAHA HAHA
I THOUGHT WE WOULD FINISH HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER


I REALLY
DON'T KNOW


WHAT
TO DO...

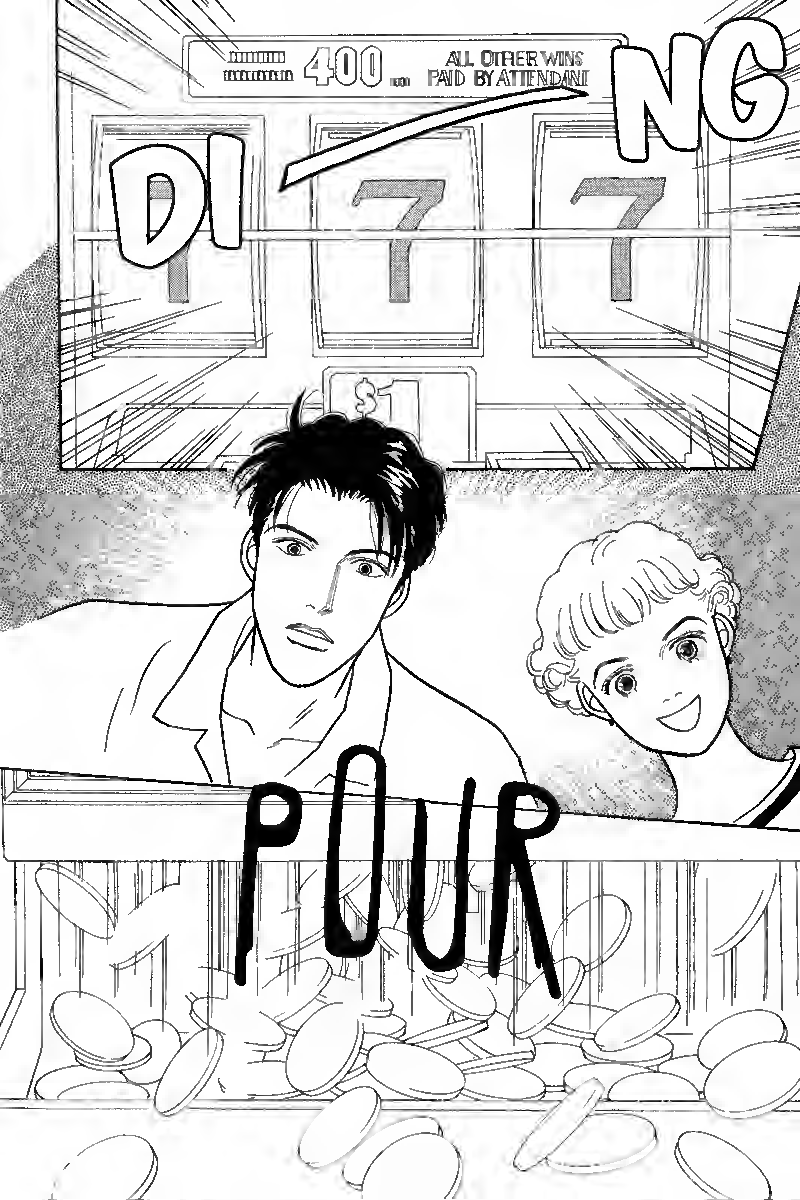

SONNY BOOMES
5


SORRY TADASHI IS WORKING UP THE COURAGE TO CALL HOME...
?
WE'LL HAVE TO WORK OUR BUTTS OFF WHEN WE GET BACK TO JAPAN.
THE POOR GUY HAS ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT HE NEEDS THEIR HELP.
DO YOU WANT TO GET THE TICKETS BACK?
SO TODAY IS PROBABLY...
TSUJI-SAN

I TOLD YOU I DON'T LIKE GAMBLING, DIDN'T I?
WE'LL JUST GET BACK WHAT WE LOST, THAT'S ALL.
I BELIEVE "AND DON'T EVEN DREAM OF GETTING ANYTHING BACK FROM THE CASINO" WERE YOUR EXACT WORDS
Listen
YOU'LL WIN IF YOU HAVE ME BY YOUR SIDE.
I'M PAPA'S "LUCKY CHARM," THE ONE TORTORA IS DYING TO LEARN ABOUT
SOMEHOW, THE PERSON I'M WITH ALWAYS WINS.
Definitely

YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE ME NOW, BUT TRY IT FOR YOURSELF.
well, bye
I wonder if he's finished his call
GRAB
IT'S LAS VEGAS, MISTER!
PLAYING ONCE WON'T KILL YOU!
WAIT
.....
ACTION
ALRIGHT
YOU'VE GOT ONE CHANCE

Go!
OKAY
CLACK
7
CLICK
CLICK
7


400
ALL OTHER WINS
PAID BY ATTENDANT
DI
NG
7
7
$1
POUR

1
WAOO!!
HEY, TSUJI!!!!! I FINISHED MY CALL.
Let's go back to Japan
BINGO!
CLANK CLANK

PAPA,
I'M GOING TO JAPAN
PAWN SHOP
GOLD & SILVER
DO YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA?

YOU KNOW WHAT? THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER WON PLAYING JANKEN.
LET'S DECIDED IT WITH JANKEN
IF I WIN, YOU'LL DO WHAT I SAY. THE MONEY IS YOURS!
I FEEL MESSAGE UP!

THE ONLY PERSON WHO LOST TO ME AT JANKEN
IS IN JAPAN
IT SHOULD BE OKAY,
RIGHT?
PAPA
GOLD&SILVER
PAWN SHOP
BUY&SALE

I UNDERSTAND IT NOW. YOUR FATHER ONLY SAID IT BECAUSE HE WAS DRUNK
HE'S NOT GIVING UP?
GOSH,
IF YOU HAD SUCH LUCKY CHARM,
YOU WOULDN'T GO BACK TO BORING COUNTRY LIKE JAPAN
WE DON'T KNOW IT YET..
MAYBE JAPAN HOLDS MORE EXCITEMENT THAN YOU KNOW..
SIGNOR TORTORA

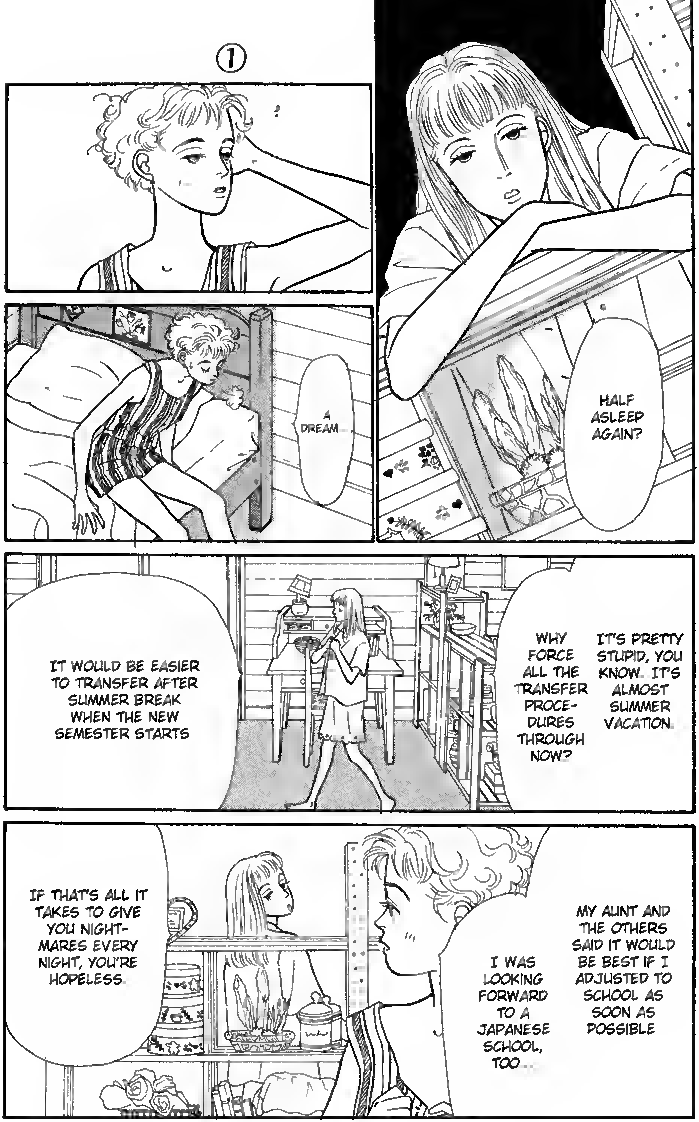
HA!
I FEEL IT IN MY BONES.
I'LL BE FINE.
I WILL.
BECAUSE I'M A LUCKY GIRL.

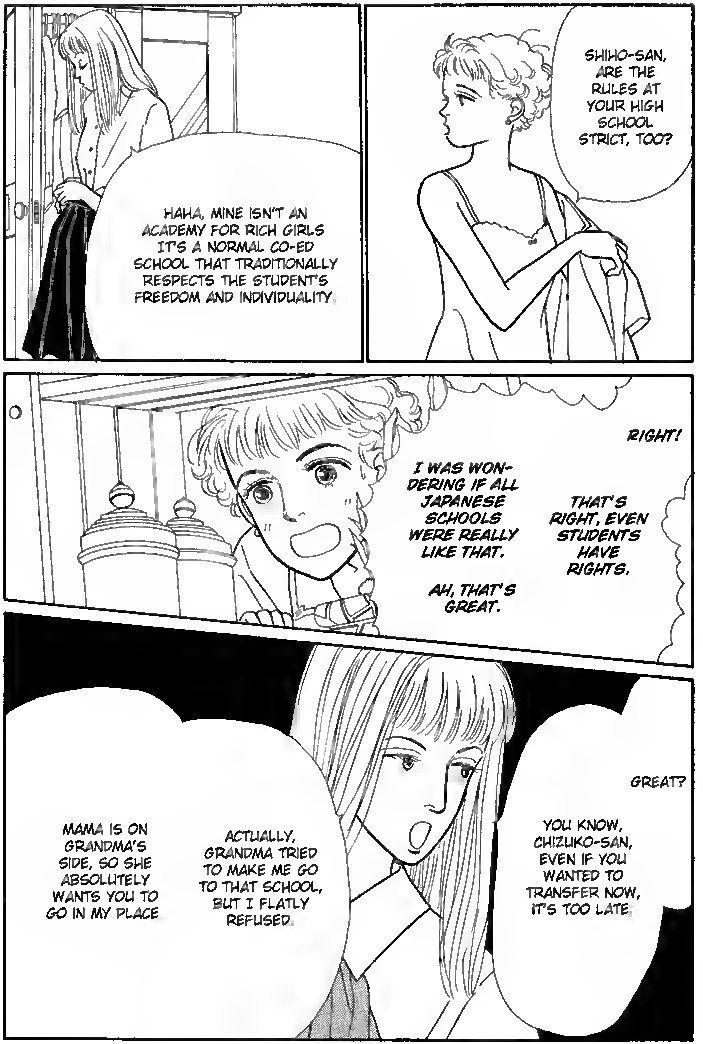
I LIVED IN JAPAN UNTIL I WAS THREE.
MEANING OF COURSE
THAT I HAVE ALMOST NO MEMORIES OF JAPAN.

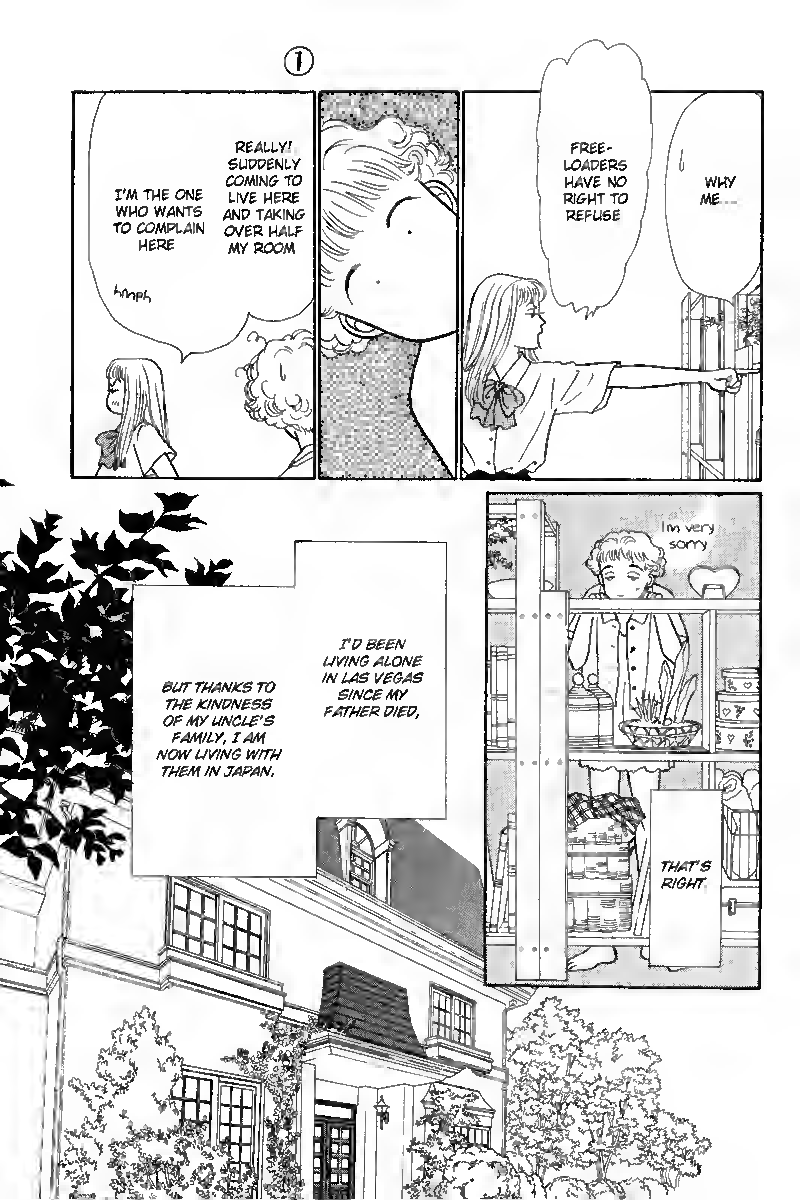
Ohimesama no Yurikago

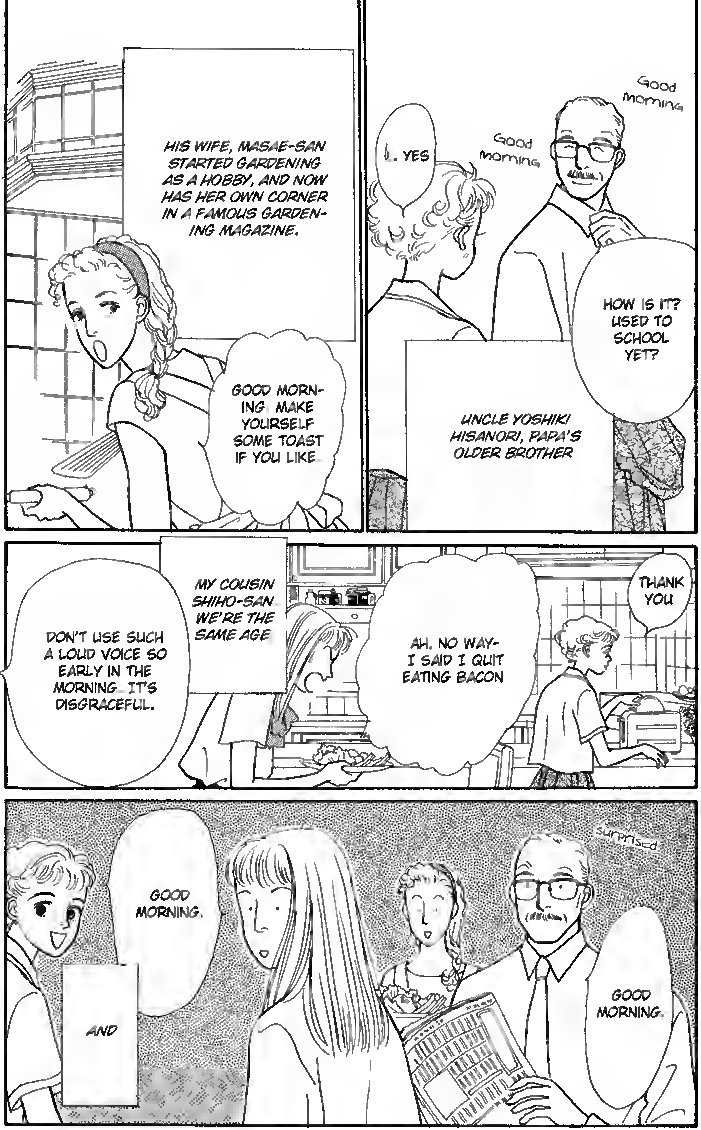
YOSHIKI CHIZUKO-SAN, HAVE YOU NOT READ THE SCHOOL REGULATIONS?
PERMS ARE FORBIDDEN AT THIS ACADEMY!!
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
IT'S JUST CURLY HAIR, I WAS BORN WITH IT
NO! NO! IT'S NOT A PERM.
PIERC-INGS!!

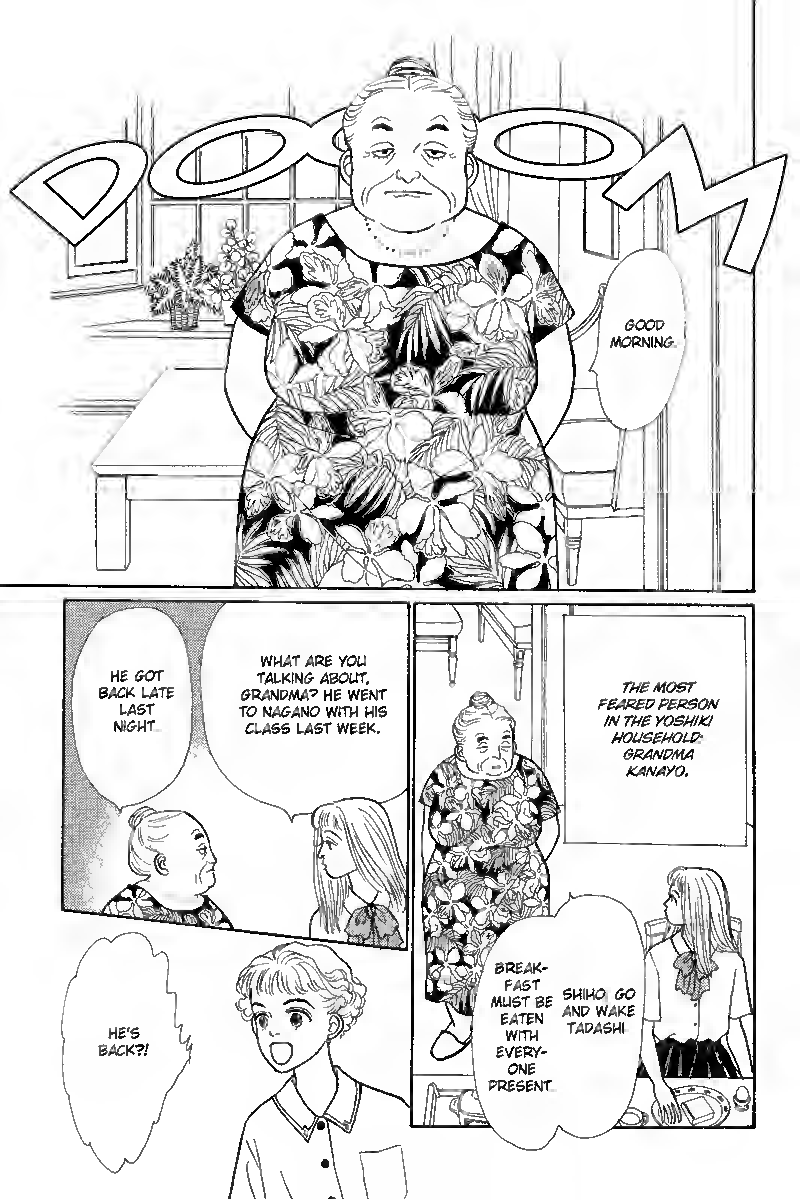
HOW DARE YOU! ACCESSORIES? HOW SCANDALOUS!!
TAKE THEM OFF, THEY WILL BE CONFISCATED!!
KYAAA! NO!
THESE ARE MAMA'S-
MAMA'S-


①
?
A DREAM
HALF ASLEEP AGAIN?
IT WOULD BE EASIER TO TRANSFER AFTER SUMMER BREAK WHEN THE NEW SEMESTER STARTS
WHY FORCE ALL THE TRANSFER PROCE-DURES THROUGH NOW?
IT'S PRETTY STUPID, YOU KNOW. IT'S ALMOST SUMMER VACATION.
IF THAT'S ALL IT TAKES TO GIVE YOU NIGHT-MARES EVERY NIGHT, YOU'RE HOPELESS.
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO A JAPANESE SCHOOL, TOO...
MY AUNT AND THE OTHERS SAID IT WOULD BE BEST IF I ADJUSTED TO SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE


HAHA, MINE ISN'T AN ACADEMY FOR RICH GIRLS IT'S A NORMAL CO-ED SCHOOL THAT TRADITIONALLY RESPECTS THE STUDENT'S FREEDOM AND INDIVIDUALITY.
SHIHO-SAN, ARE THE RULES AT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL STRICT, TOO?
I WAS WONDERING IF ALL JAPANESE SCHOOLS WERE REALLY LIKE THAT.
AH, THAT'S GREAT.
THAT'S RIGHT. EVEN STUDENTS HAVE RIGHTS.
RIGHT!
GREAT?
YOU KNOW, CHIZUKO-SAN, EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO TRANSFER NOW, IT'S TOO LATE.
ACTUALLY, GRANDMA TRIED TO MAKE ME GO TO THAT SCHOOL, BUT I FLATLY REFUSED.
MAMA IS ON GRANDMA'S SIDE, SO SHE ABSOLUTELY WANTS YOU TO GO IN MY PLACE.


①
WHY ME...
FREE-LOADERS HAVE NO RIGHT TO REFUSE
REALLY! SUDDENLY COMING TO LIVE HERE AND TAKING OVER HALF MY ROOM
I'M THE ONE WHO WANTS TO COMPLAIN HERE
hmph
I'm very sorry
THAT'S RIGHT
I'D BEEN LIVING ALONE IN LAS VEGAS SINCE MY FATHER DIED,
BUT THANKS TO THE KINDNESS OF MY UNCLE'S FAMILY, I AM NOW LIVING WITH THEM IN JAPAN.

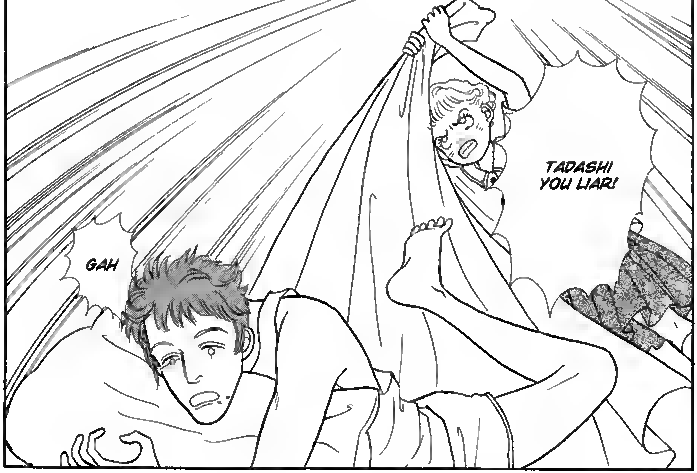

HIS WIFE, MASAE-SAN STARTED GARDENING AS A HOBBY, AND NOW HAS HER OWN CORNER IN A FAMOUS GARDENING MAGAZINE.
GOOD MORNING. MAKE YOURSELF SOME TOAST IF YOU LIKE.
Good morning.
Good morning.
HOW IS IT? USED TO SCHOOL YET?
UNCLE YOSHIKI HISANORI, PAPA'S OLDER BROTHER
MY COUSIN SHIHO-SAN. WE'RE THE SAME AGE.
DON'T USE SUCH A LOUD VOICE SO EARLY IN THE MORNING. IT'S DISGRACEFUL.
AH, NO WAY- I SAID I QUIT EATING BACON
THANK YOU
GOOD MORNING.
AND
Surprised
GOOD MORNING.


DOOM
GOOD MORNING.
THE MOST FEARED PERSON IN THE YOSHIKI HOUSEHOLD: GRANDMA KANAYO.
SHIHO GO AND WAKE TADASHI
BREAK-FAST MUST BE EATEN WITH EVERY-ONE PRESENT
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, GRANDMA? HE WENT TO NAGANO WITH HIS CLASS LAST WEEK.
HE GOT BACK LATE LAST NIGHT.
HE'S BACK?!

knock
knock
TADASHI-SAN
thump
thump
thump
I'LL GO WAKE HIM
GOOD MORN-ING!
BAM
AND ONE MORE COUSIN, YOSHIKI TADASHI, 4TH YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENT.
UGH
I JUST GOT TO SLEEP, GIMME A BREAK

TADASHI-SAN, YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOUR PROMISE HAVE YOU!?
PROMISE?
YOU PROMISED YOU'D HELP ME FIND A PART TIME JOB FOR SUMMER BREAK
A JOB, A PART TIME JOB.
HUH?
NOT POSSIBLE, YOUR SCHOOL FORBIDS PART TIME WORK
THAT'S WHY YOU SAID YOU'D PERSUADE AUNT MASAE AND THE OTHERS
LEAVE IT TO ME!
NO
GOOD NIGHT
I'LL PASS
rustle
TADASHI-SAN
GEEZ. .

BUT YOU HAVEN'T BROUGHT HIM BY EVEN ONCE
YOU SAID YOU'D BRING TSUJI-SAN OVER,
TADASHI-SAN,
WHAT ABOUT YOUR OTHER PROMISE?
TSUJI?
AH, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE RIGHT NOW.
HE'S WORKING IN A FARM IN HOKKAIDO.
TOO BAD, HUH?
rustle
.....


TADASHI YOU LIAR!
GAH

THINK-ING BACK ON IT,
I JUMPED HEADLONG INTO THIS NEW LIFE-STYLE
FULL OF BASELESS CONFIDENCE AND EXPECTATIONS.

THE PIERCINGS? YOU WANT THEM TOO?
BUT LIFE JUST ISN'T ALL FUN AND GAMES..
THAT'S DIRTY, SAYING THEY'RE A MEMENTO OF YOUR MOTHER.
YOSHIKI-SAN?
IT'S NOT WHETHER IT HURTS OR NOT IT'S-
THEN EVERY-ONE SHOULD GET THEM IT DOESN'T HURT THAT MUCH.
Want me to do it for you?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I SAID I'M SAYING I THINK IT'S STRANGE FOR AN EXCEPTION TO BE MADE FOR ONE PERSON.
AH, THANK YOU.
YOU'RE ON DUTY TODAY, RIGHT?
I'LL WALK WITH YOU TO THE CHEMISTRY ROOM, SO LET'S GO TOGETHER.

CIRCUMSTANCES?
THE SCHOOL IS BEING CONSIDERATE OF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES AND TURNING A BLIND EYE.
THAT'S RIGHT
ON TOP OF HAVING RECENTLY RETURNED TO JAPAN AND BEING UNUSED TO LIFE HERE, YOU LOST YOUR PARENTS AND WERE TAKEN IN BY YOUR UNCLE
YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO RUB PEOPLE THE WRONG WAY.
?
IT MUST BE HARD. EVEN IF THEY ARE RELATIVES, YOU'VE BEEN PUT IN THE CARE OF PEOPLE YOU'VE NEVER MET BEFORE
SO IT'S SYMPATHY-
...IT'S NOT REALLY PAINFUL OR ANYTHING. EVERYONE IS VERY KIND
AH, I'M NOT JUST ASKING BECAUSE I'M CURIOUS. THEY SAY IT HELPS TO TALK ABOUT PAINFUL THINGS, YOU KNOW.
IT MUST BE PAINFUL
ARE THEY BULLYING YOU?

I SEE
MATSUHARA-SAN!
really truly
NOT A THING
...YOU'RE NOT HIDING SOME-THING?
OH, I'M HEADED THIS WAY. BYE
whisper
NOT AT ALL.
HOW IS IT? WILL SHE MAKE FOR INTERESTING MATERIAL?
IT SEEMS SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

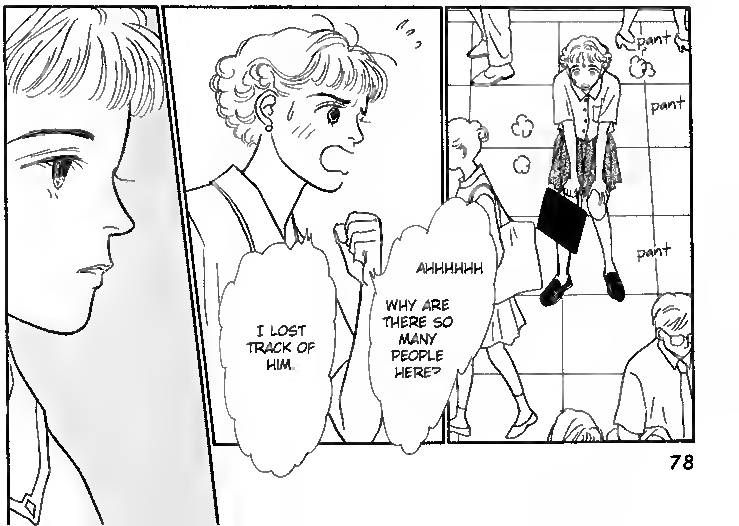
WHY DO THINGS KEEP HAPPENING ONE AFTER ANOTHER-?
EVEN SO,
YOU
A MO-LESTER!!
UGH... I CAN'T MOVE...!!
jam packed
UGH
IT HURTS!
!
pat pat
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU FOR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ME...
NOT BEING ABLE TO MOVE AND GROPING MY BUTT!
COWARD

WHO WAS IT?
REALLY, REALLY...
GRR
bustle

TSUJI-
SA...
TSUJI-
SAN!?

EXCUSE
ME
EXCUSE
ME

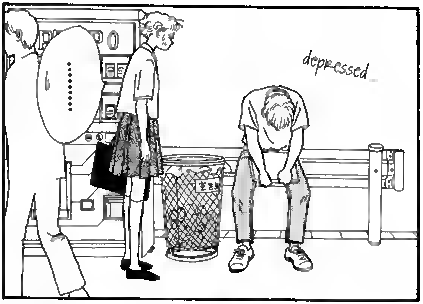
谷

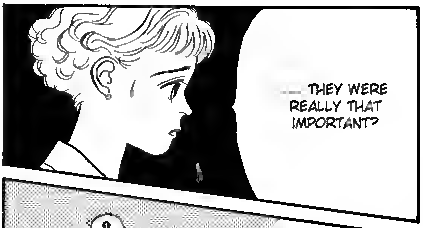

I LOST TRACK OF HIM.
AHHHHHH WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE?
pant
pant
pant

bump
I WANT TO SEE HIM. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I WAS THINKING ABOUT SEEING HIM...
...MAYBE I MISTOOK HIM FOR SOMEBODY ELSE
CRASH
OOOPS
WAH
ER

AH
AAHHHH...
AH
DON'T STEP ON THEM! DON'T STEP ON THEM!
MY PRECIOUS, PRECIOUS MAH-JONG TILES!
AH
I'M SO VERY SORRY.
I THINK THIS IS ALL OF THEM.
AHH- THEY'RE MISSING!
3 OF THEM ARE MISSING!!

PLEASE FIND THEM!
FIND THEM!
DEFI-NITELY FIND THEM!


depressed
.....

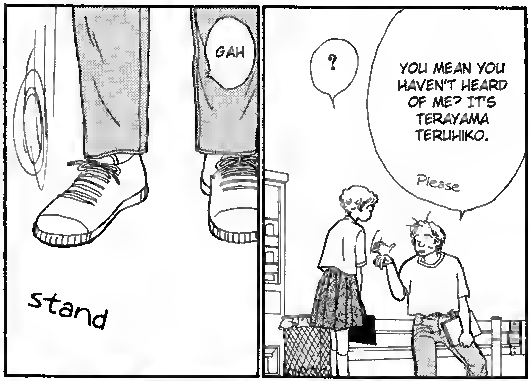

.... THEY WERE REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

?
?
THEY WERE THE TILES I USED THE FIRST TIME I WON WITH MORE THAN 32,000 POINTS.

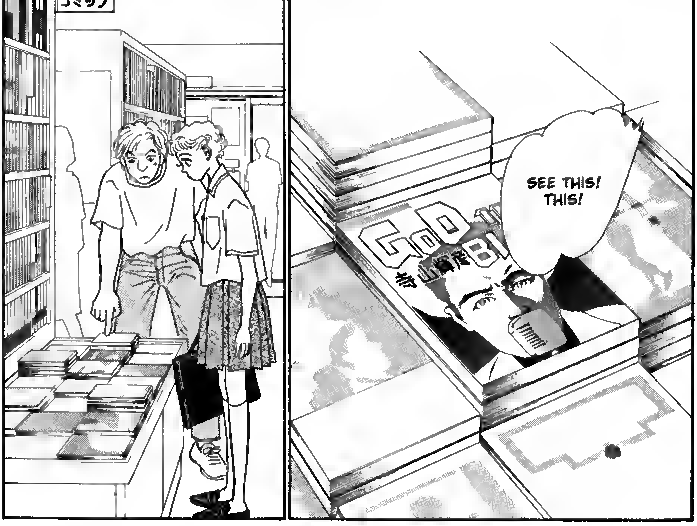
GO NE
collapse

TURN!
OLD MAN!? HOW RUDE! I'M ONLY 27.
O...OLD MAN, IT CAN'T BE THAT BAD
AAAHH IT'S NO GOOD MY LUCK IS GOING TO PLUMMET DOWN TO NOTHING
TERU-CHAN?
EVERYONE CALLS ME TERU-CHAN.
I'M SORRY THEN WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU-
TERAYAMA TERUHIKO, SO TERU-CHAN
YEAH, FROM TERAYAMA TERUHIKO - TERU-CHAN.

I heard you before.
YES
YEAH! TERAYAMA TERUHIKO.

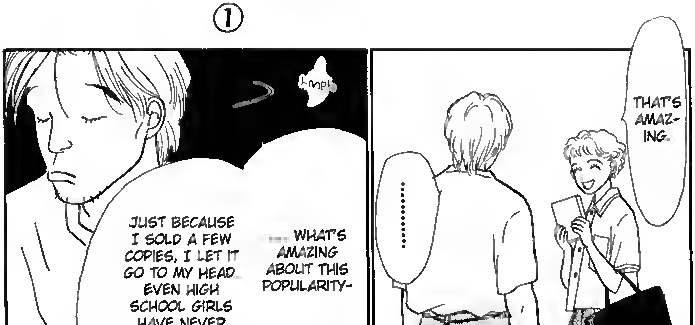

GAH
stand
?
YOU MEAN YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF ME? IT'S TERAYAMA TERUHIKO.
Please

Book
COME WITH ME.
EH
AH UHMM



HAHA. THE SERIALIZATION ENDED HALF A YEAR AGO, BUT IT'S STILL SO POPULAR. THEY'RE MAKING AN ANIME, TOO
WOW, THERE ARE A LOT HERE.
OOH, YOU'RE A MANGAKA!*

*T/N: A manga-ka provides both the art and the story for a manga or Japanese comic

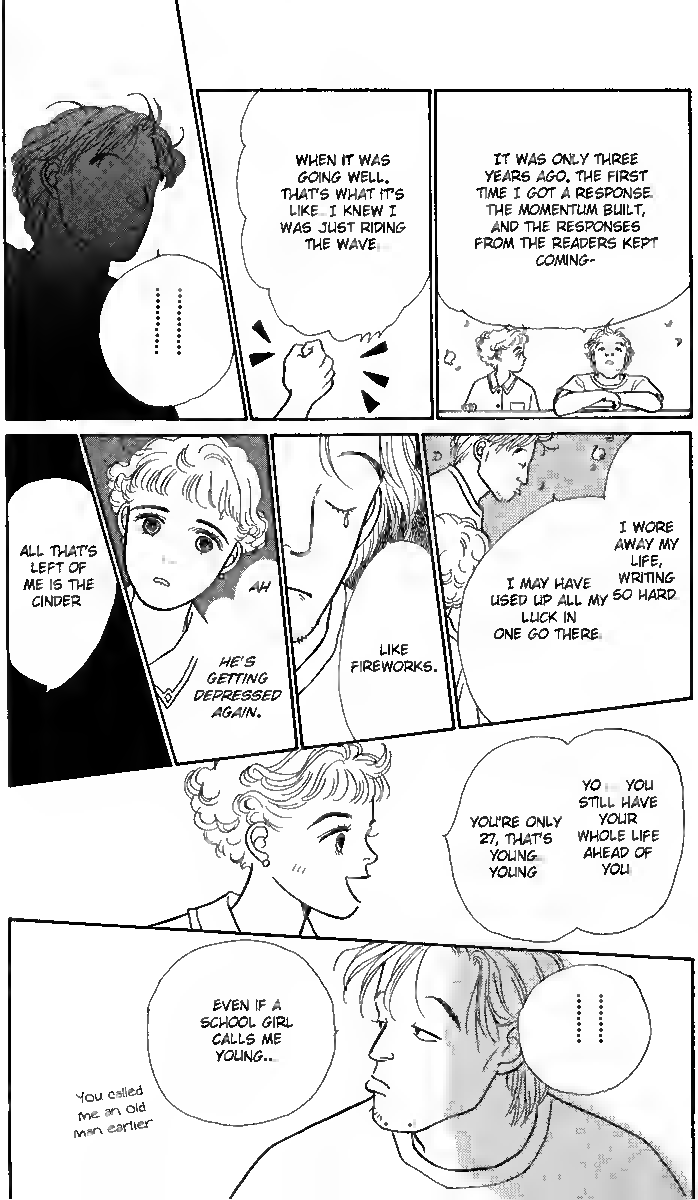

JUST BECAUSE I SOLD A FEW COPIES, I LET IT GO TO MY HEAD. EVEN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS HAVE NEVER HEARD OF ME.
...WHAT'S AMAZING ABOUT THIS POPULARITY-
.....
THAT'S AMAZING.

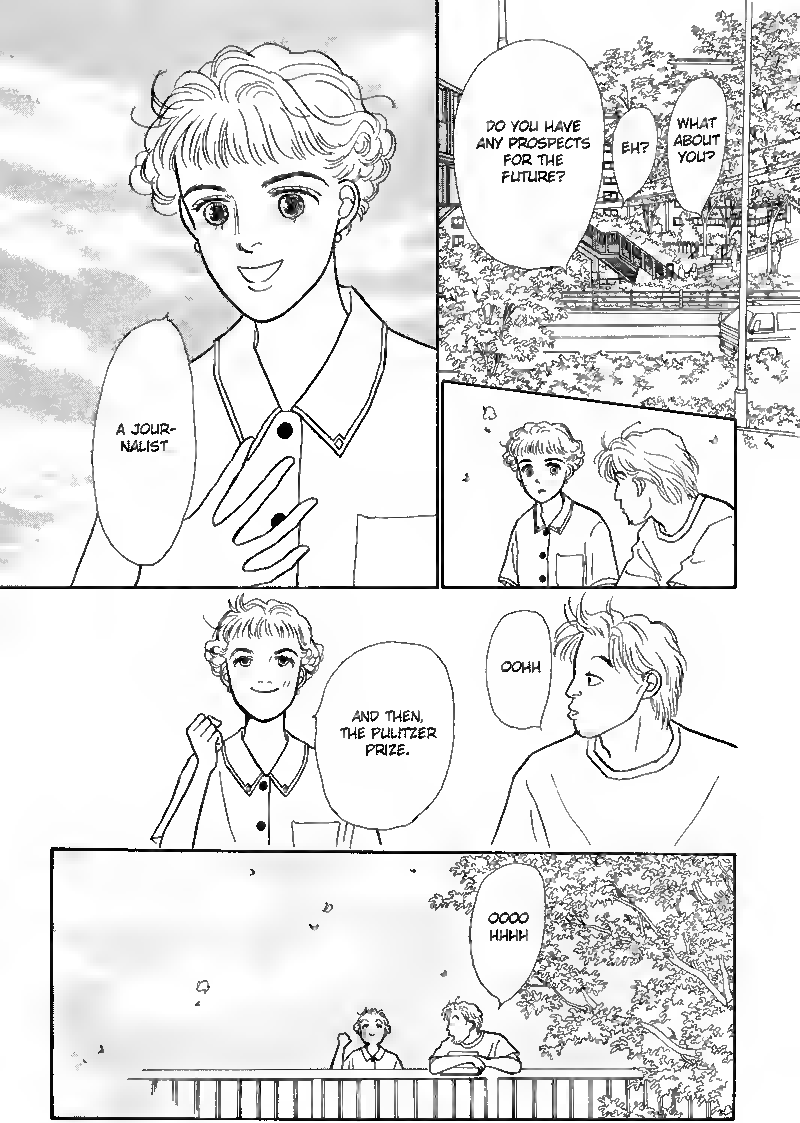
HUH?
BECAUSE I JUST RECENTLY CAME TO JAPAN.
AH, THE REASON I NEVER HEARD OF YOU IS PROBABLY

I'M EVEN MORE IMPRESSED THAT YOU WROTE THIS MANGA.
SO YOU MUST BE FLUENT IN ENGLISH THAT'S AMAZING MY ENGLISH IS ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE. I'M REALLY IMPRESSED
SO YOU'RE A RETURNEE
OOH YOU'RE FROM LAS VEGAS

SINCE YOU DID WHY DON'T I SIGN IT FOR YOU?
OH I KNOW.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BUY A COPY THOUGH
IT'S REALLY AMAZING HOW DID YOU LEARN TO DRAW LIKE THIS?
Wow- so good
REALLY?
SINCE I WAS A KID, BECOMING A MANGAKA WAS MY DREAM.
MY FATHER OFTEN HIT ME, SAYING "YOU READ NOTHING BUT MANGA!"
BUT SO LONG AS I HAD MANGA, I WAS HAPPY
I LEFT THE COUNTRYSIDE AND CAME TO TOKYO TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL
IT WAS A PERIOD OF DREAMS AND DESPAIR FOR ME

I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING, ALL I HAD THEN WAS CONFIDENCE
WELL... WITHIN HALF A YEAR I WAS FORCED FACE REALITY...
EVEN SO, I NEVER GAVE UP
HEHE, I'M PRETTY PERSISTENT, YOU KNOW
BUT NOW YOU ARE A POPULAR MANGAKA THAT'S GREAT, ISN'T IT? YOU FULFILLED YOUR DREAM

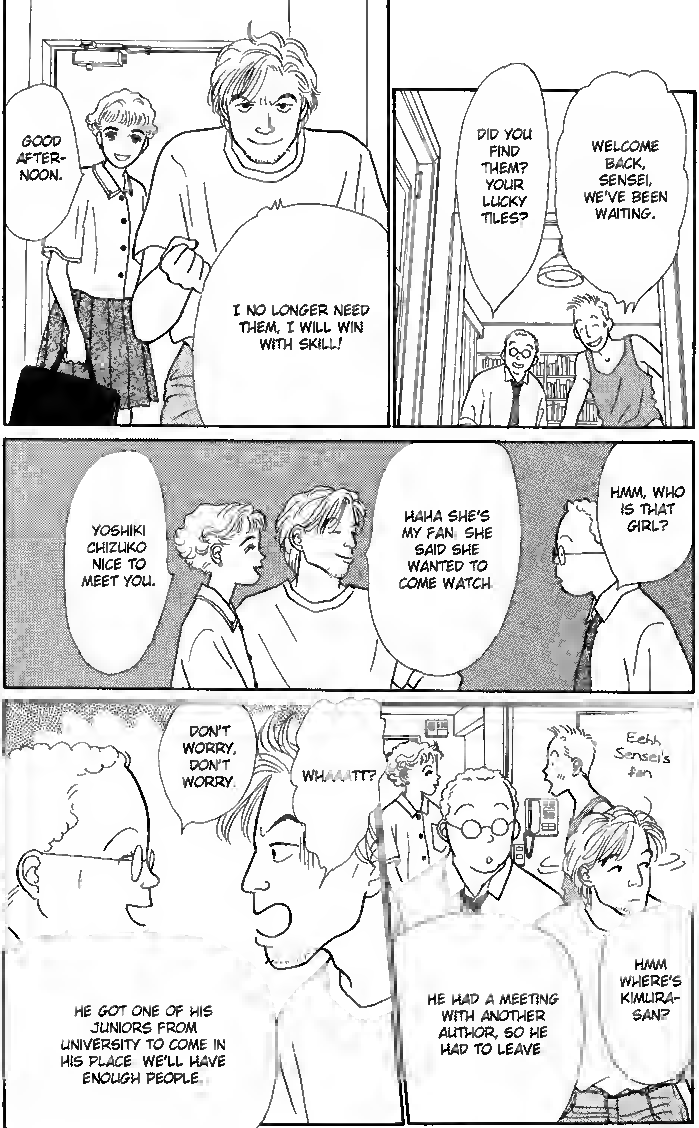

……
WHEN IT WAS GOING WELL, THAT'S WHAT IT'S LIKE. I KNEW I WAS JUST RIDING THE WAVE.
IT WAS ONLY THREE YEARS AGO. THE FIRST TIME I GOT A RESPONSE. THE MOMENTUM BUILT, AND THE RESPONSES FROM THE READERS KEPT COMING-
ALL THAT'S LEFT OF ME IS THE CINDER
AH
HE'S GETTING DEPRESSED AGAIN.
LIKE FIREWORKS.
I MAY HAVE USED UP ALL MY LUCK IN ONE GO THERE.
I WORE AWAY MY LIFE, WRITING SO HARD.
YOU'RE ONLY 27, THAT'S YOUNG. YOUNG
YOU STILL HAVE YOUR WHOLE LIFE AHEAD OF YOU.
EVEN IF A SCHOOL GIRL CALLS ME YOUNG..
You called me an old man earlier
……


A JOURNALIST
DO YOU HAVE ANY PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE?
EH?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
AND THEN, THE PULITZER PRIZE.
OOHH
OOOO HHHH

UHM IS MAHJONG A GAME?
I TRIED TO AT LEAST IMPROVE MY LUCK AND BROUGHT ALONG MY SPECIAL TILES..... BUT IT WAS POINTLESS.
MY EDITORS AND ASSISTANTS INVITED ME TO TAKE A BREAK AND PLAY MAHJONG, BUT I JUST KEPT LOSING.
THAT'S GREAT IT'S GOOD TO HAVE CONFIDENCE AND AMBITIONS WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG.
surprised
STILL SAYING THAT...
I'M ALREADY DONE THE NEW SERIALIZATION ISN'T GOING WELL.
IF YOU WERE GOING SOMEWHERE TO PLAY JUST NOW, I WANT TO WATCH. PLEASE LET ME COME AND SEE HOW IT'S PLAYED.
...WELL, YEAH, IT'S A GAME.
A GAME?! IT'S NOT JUST A GAME! THERE IS NO GAME THAT PROBES THE DEPTHS AND TRUE MEANING OF INTELLIGENT PLAY LIKE MAHJONG. IT-

PLEASE
... RIGHT NOW AT WORK THERE ARE PEOPLE WAITING TO PLAY WITH ME, BUT...
NOT GOOD.
WE'VE GOT TO LET TERU-CHAN WIN. THERE'S NO POINT YOU KNOW, IF YOUR ASSISTANTS ARE THE ONES WINNING.
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK. JUST HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU, THE EDITOR, BEAT HIM?
...FOR SOMEONE WHO REALLY LOVES MAHJONG, SENSEI* IS REALLY BAD
clatter
ANYWAY, WHEN TERU-CHAN GETS BACK, NO MATTER WHAT WE HAVE TO LET HIM WIN. IF HE DOESN'T CHEER UP, HE WON'T GET ANY WORK DONE AND IT'S REALLY PILING UP

*T/N Honorific given to writers, doctors, and artists


GOOD AFTER-NOON.
I NO LONGER NEED THEM. I WILL WIN WITH SKILL!
DID YOU FIND THEM? YOUR LUCKY TILES?
WELCOME BACK, SENSEI. WE'VE BEEN WAITING.
YOSHIKI CHIZUKO NICE TO MEET YOU.
HAHA SHE'S MY FAN. SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO COME WATCH.
HMM, WHO IS THAT GIRL?
DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY.
WHAAAT?
Eehh Sensei's fan
HE GOT ONE OF HIS JUNIORS FROM UNIVERSITY TO COME IN HIS PLACE. WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE.
HE HAD A MEETING WITH ANOTHER AUTHOR, SO HE HAD TO LEAVE
HMM WHERE'S KIMURA-SAN?

SO, WHERE IS THIS JUNIOR?
HE'S OUT PICKING UP SOME FOOD, SHOULD BE BACK ANYTIME NOW.
HMPH, CAN'T BE HELPED
an amateur. huh?
PHEW
BUT APPARENTLY HE DOESN'T KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT MAHJONG. BUT WELL, HE MAKES UP THE NUMBERS SO GIVE HIM A BREAK.
AH
YO-SHIKI'S-
HUH?
TSUJI-SAN?!

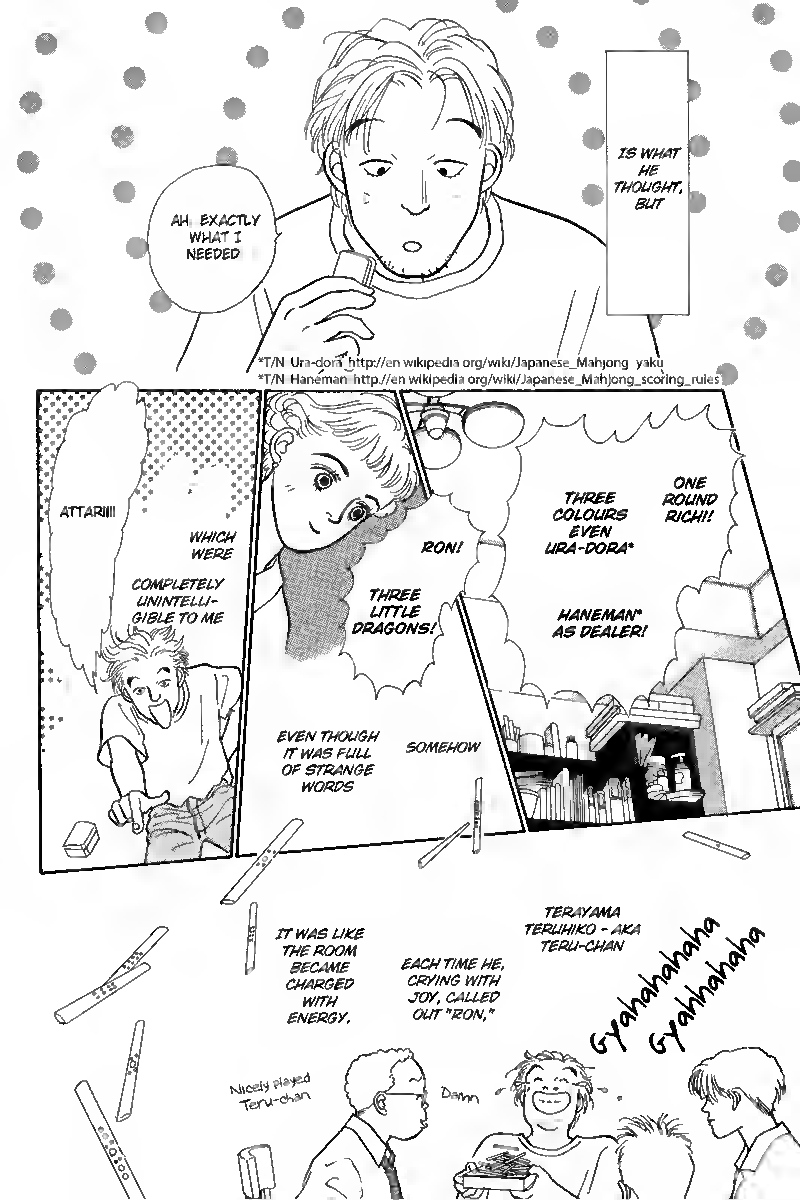
NOT SINCE LAS VEGAS.
WE FINALLY MEET!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WELL, IT WOULD TAKE A WHILE TO EXPLAIN-
HEY JUNIOR!
What are you doing? Hurry it up
Hey
You've got fast hands
DON'T GO GETTING ALL FRIENDLY WITH HER JUST CAUSE SHE'S A SCHOOL GIRL. SHE'S MY FAN YOU KNOW.

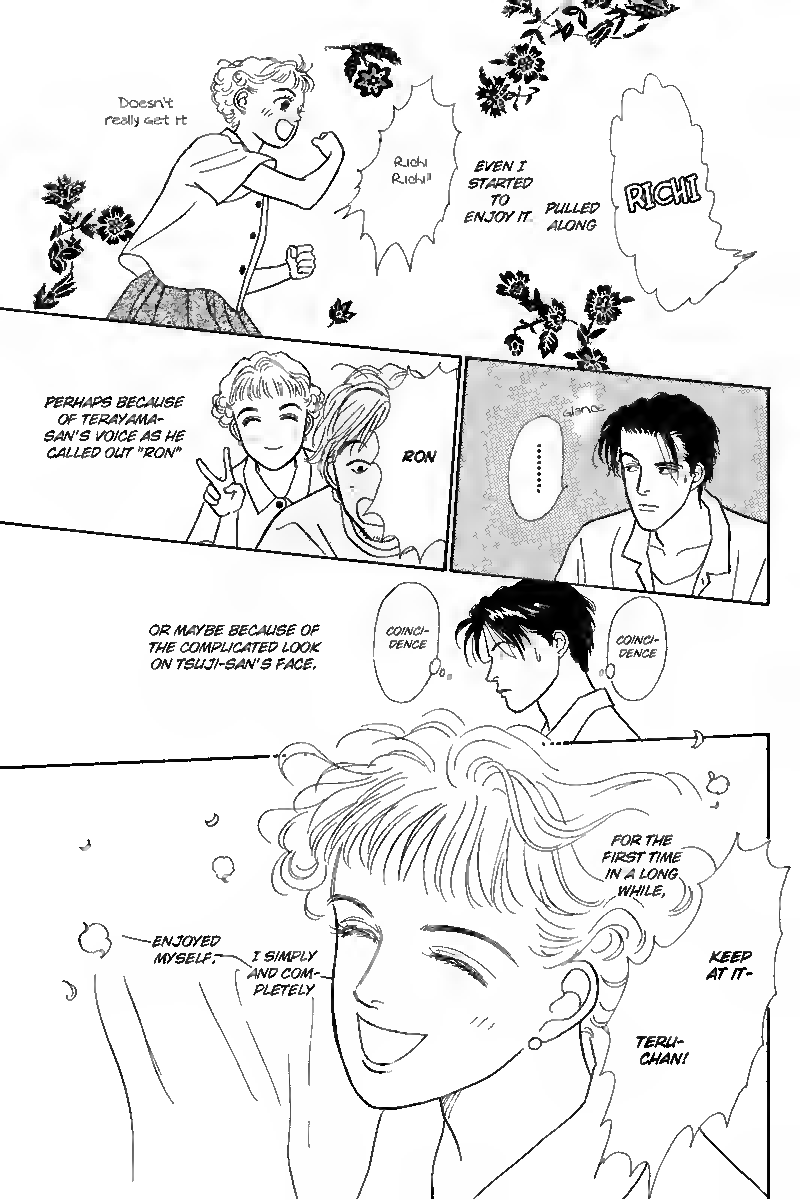
shuffle
shuffle
ALRIGHT, LET'S START!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
MEETING HIM IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
IT REALLY WAS HIM I SAW AT THE STATION.
IT WAS NO MISTAKE.
*T/N Atari: winning by picking up the discarded tile
AH...
ATARI *
GEH
Ahhh Why does he play such an obviously bad move?

stare
AH!
RON
WASN'T HE A COMPLETE AMATEUR?
Even if you say that now...
THIS IS BAD.
H... HEY.
BUT
I'M JUST WATCHING. I CAUSED TERAYAMA-SAN TO LOSE SOME OF HIS TILES, TO MAKE UP FOR THAT I- AH!
SHOULDN'T YOU BE HEADING HOME SOON? EVEN IF YOU'RE A FAN, IT'S NOT GOOD FOR A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TO BE WATCHING A MAHJONG GAME.
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
?

*T/N Noten: a hand with no chance to win http://www.delfosse.com/mahjong.html

TERAYAMA-SAN DO YOUR BEST! YOU'LL DEFINITELY WIN!
Y, YEAH
THAT'S RIGHT I NEED TO SIT BEHIND TERAYAMA-SAN AND ROOT FOR HIM! SO HE'LL DEFINITELY WIN
SHE'S STILL SAYING THAT STUFF
com-pletely forgot
AAHOOOO I MESSED IT ALL UP.
DAMNOO IT'S NOTEN!*
Just for me
HOW-EVER,


AH, EXACTLY WHAT I NEEDED
IS WHAT HE THOUGHT, BUT
*T/N Ura-dora: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Mahjong_yaku
*T/N Haneman: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Mahjong_scoring_rules
ATTARI!!!
WHICH WERE
COMPLETELY UNINTELLI-GIBLE TO ME
RON!
THREE LITTLE DRAGONS!
THREE COLOURS EVEN URA-DORA*
ONE ROUND RICH!!
HANEMAN* AS DEALER!
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS FULL OF STRANGE WORDS
SOMEHOW
IT WAS LIKE THE ROOM BECAME CHARGED WITH ENERGY,
EACH TIME HE, CRYING WITH JOY, CALLED OUT "RON,"
TERAYAMA TERUHIKO - AKA TERU-CHAN
Gyahahaha
Gyahhahaha
Nicely played Teru-chan
Damn


Doesn't really get it
Richi Richi!
EVEN I STARTED TO ENJOY IT.
PULLED ALONG
RICHI
PERHAPS BECAUSE OF TERAYAMA-SAN'S VOICE AS HE CALLED OUT "RON"
RON
glance
.....
OR MAYBE BECAUSE OF THE COMPLICATED LOOK ON TSUJI-SAN'S FACE,
COINCI-DENCE
COINCI-DENCE
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE,
I SIMPLY AND COM-PLETELY
ENJOYED MYSELF.
KEEP AT IT-
TERU-CHAN!

TERAYAMA-SAN SEEMED LIKE HE WANTED TO KEEP GOING.
REALLY
fuo
HO
HO
HO
HO
I surrender
NO ONE CAN COMPETE WITH YOU, GIVE US A BREAK.
LET'S CALL IT A NIGHT.
AH I FEEL GREAT. BEEN A WHILE SINCE I FELT SO REFRESHED.
I FEEL LIKE LUCK HAS TURNED MY WAY.

①
AA~~H
I MAY JUST BE A GENIUS
OH OH AND AN-OTHER AND AN-OTHER-
I FEEL LIKE I CAN COME UP WITH A GOOD PLOT
OH!
OH!
HEE HEE
MANGAKA ARE PRETTY SIMPLE MINDED
Hey
I'm sorta get tired
smile
BUT SOME-HOW I'VE CHEERED UP
RECENTLY, I'VE BEEN FEELING A LITTLE UN-CONFIDENT
BUT I'M PRETTY SIMPLE MINDED TOO, YOU KNOW

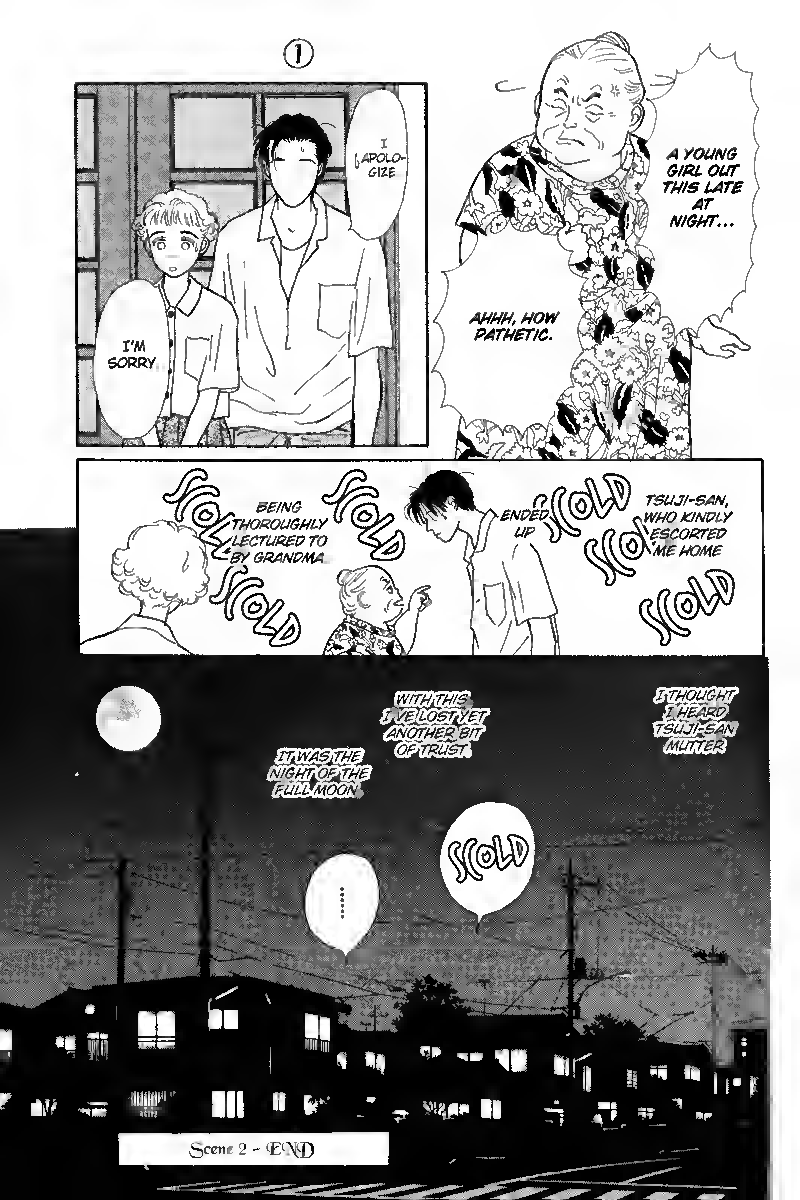
TADASHI-SAN SAID
YOU WERE AT A FARM IN HOKKAIDO.
YEAH,
I'M HEADING BACK THERE NEXT WEEK. I JUST CAME BACK ON SOME BUSINESS.
...IS THAT ALL?
AH.
TSUJI-SAN, DOES THAT FARM NEED ANOTHER PART TIME WORKER?
I CAN DO ANY SORT OF JOB.
THE SUMMER VACATION IN JAPAN IS SHORT.
MY SUMMER HOLIDAY FINALLY STARTS NEXT WEEK, TOO.

I CAN'T LET A GIRL GO WORK SO FAR AWAY FROM ANYONE SHE KNOWS.
YOU'LL BE THERE
NO WAY.
NO WAY
WHY NOT?!
HOW DISAP-POINT-ING!
IT'S A FARM RUN BY A FRIEND OF MINE, SO IF THE YOSHIKI HOUSEHOLD ALL WANTED TO COME VISIT,
I CAN ASK THEM TO LET YOU ALL STAY.

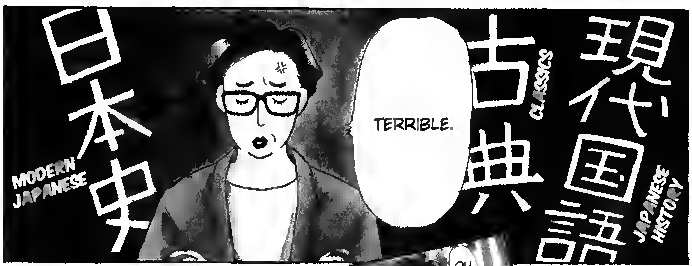
IS THAT SO?
REAL LY?
TSUJI-SAN?

AH TSUJI-SAN?
WHAT IS IT ALREADY?
THE MOON IS AMAZINGLY PRETTY!
Look
.....

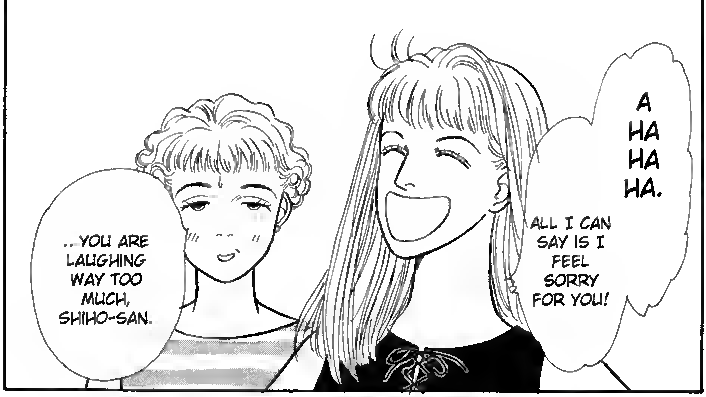
IT'S SO ROMAN-TIC.
CHIZUKO! JUST WHAT TIME DO YOU THINK IT IS?!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
AND DRAGGING TSUJI-KUN ALONG WITH YOU!

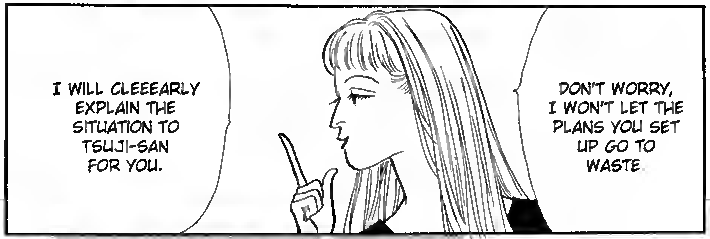

1
I APOLOGIZE
I'M SORRY
A YOUNG GIRL OUT THIS LATE AT NIGHT...
AHHH, HOW PATHETIC.
BEING THOROUGHLY LECTURED TO BY GRANDMA
ENDED UP
TSUJI-SAN, WHO KINDLY ESCORTED ME HOME
SCOLD
WITH THIS I'VE LOST YET ANOTHER BIT OF TRUST.
I THOUGHT I HEARD TSUJI-SAN MUTTER
IT WAS THE NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON
.....
SCOLD
Scene 2 - END

SUMMER MEADOWS,
PURE WHITE CLOUDS, BLUE SKIES, A SPARKLING HORIZON.
AAHH! SUMMER IN HOKKAIDO!!

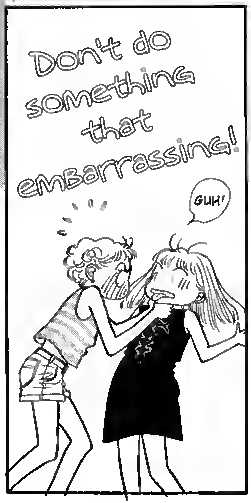


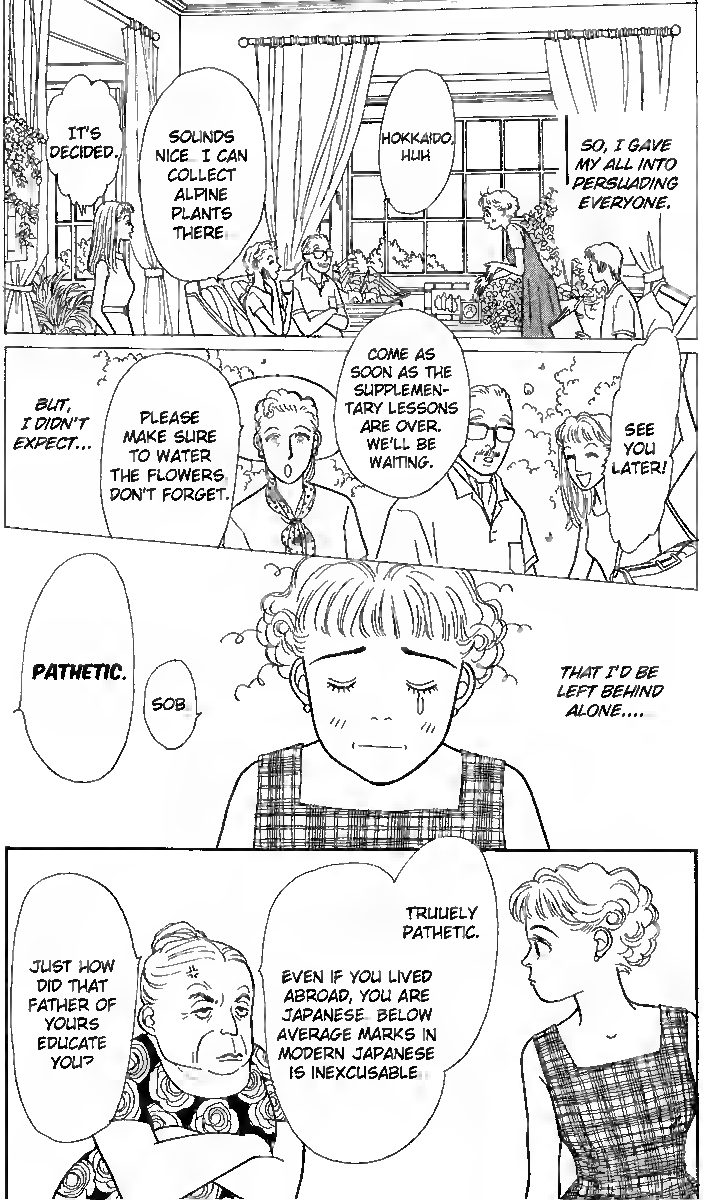
So long my happy summer vacation


A HA HA HA.
ALL I CAN SAY IS I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU!
.. YOU ARE LAUGHING WAY TOO MUCH, SHIHO-SAN.

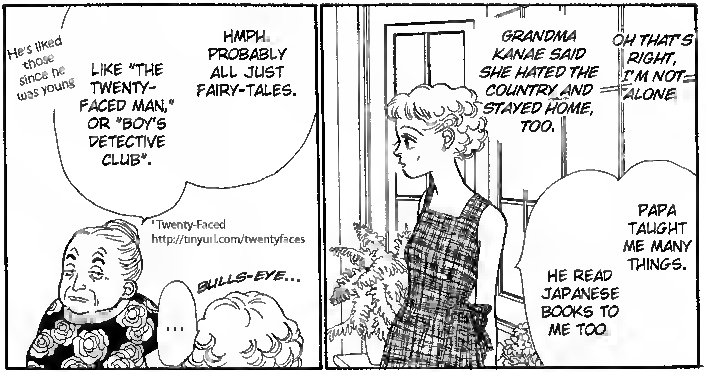

I WILL CLEEEARLY EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO TSUJI-SAN FOR YOU.
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T LET THE PLANS YOU SET UP GO TO WASTE

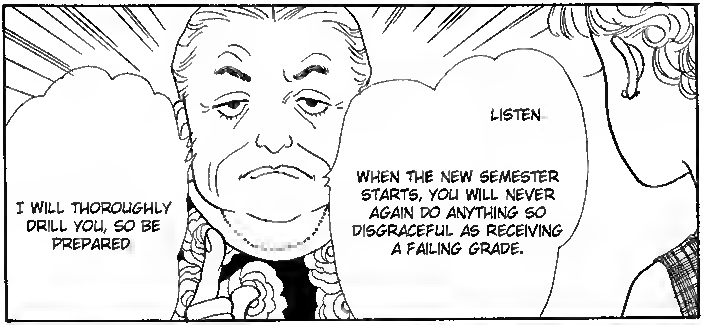
I CAN ASK THEM TO LET YOU ALL STAY THERE."
"IT'S A FARM RUN BY A FRIEND OF MINE, SO IF THE ENTIRE FAMILY WANTS TO COME VISIT,
TSUJI-SAN INVITED US SAYING:


Don't do something that embarrassing!
GUH!


SO, I GAVE MY ALL INTO PERSUADING EVERYONE.
HOKKAIDO, HUH
SOUNDS NICE. I CAN COLLECT ALPINE PLANTS THERE.
IT'S DECIDED.
SEE YOU LATER!
COME AS SOON AS THE SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS ARE OVER. WE'LL BE WAITING.
PLEASE MAKE SURE TO WATER THE FLOWERS DON'T FORGET.
BUT, I DIDN'T EXPECT...
THAT I'D BE LEFT BEHIND ALONE....
SOB
PATHETIC.
TRULY PATHETIC.
EVEN IF YOU LIVED ABROAD, YOU ARE JAPANESE. BELOW AVERAGE MARKS IN MODERN JAPANESE IS INEXCUSABLE.
JUST HOW DID THAT FATHER OF YOURS EDUCATE YOU?

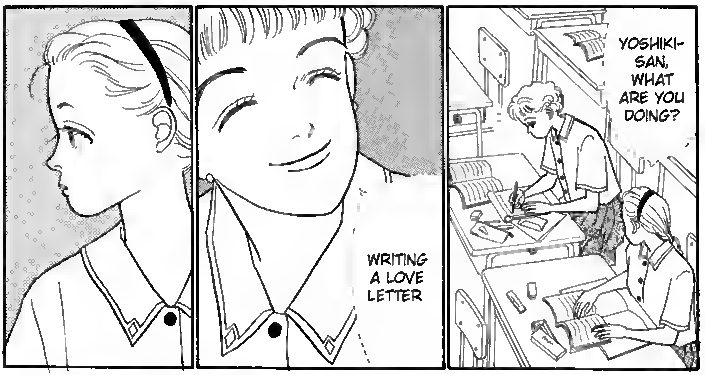
お姫さまの揺籠(ゆりかご)①

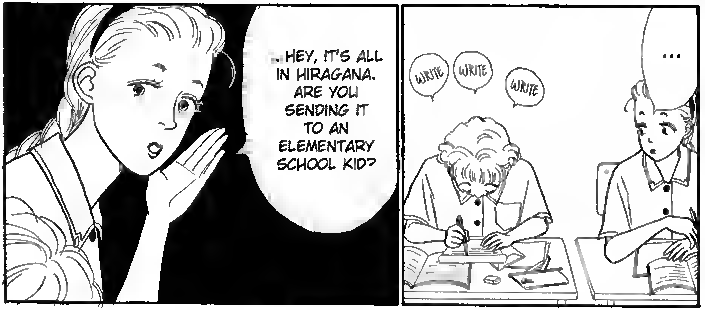


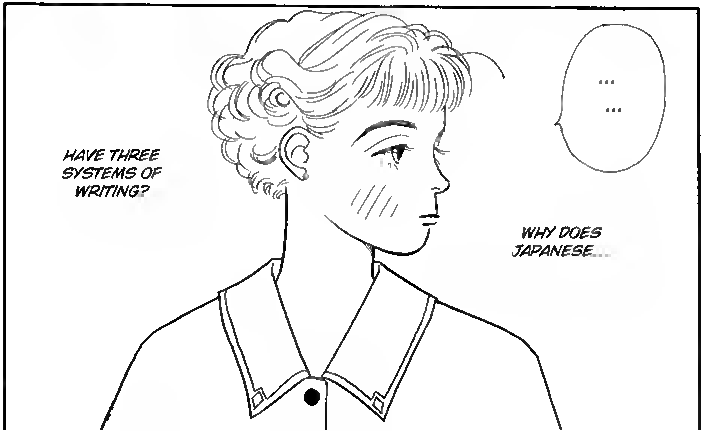


TN: If you feel the contents of the blackboard are important, email me and I'll do what I can
THERE ARE A QUITE A FEW PEOPLE HERE.
OH...
AAH EVEN THOUGH IT'S SUMMER VACATION...
POOR US.

お姫さまの揺籠(ゆりかご)①

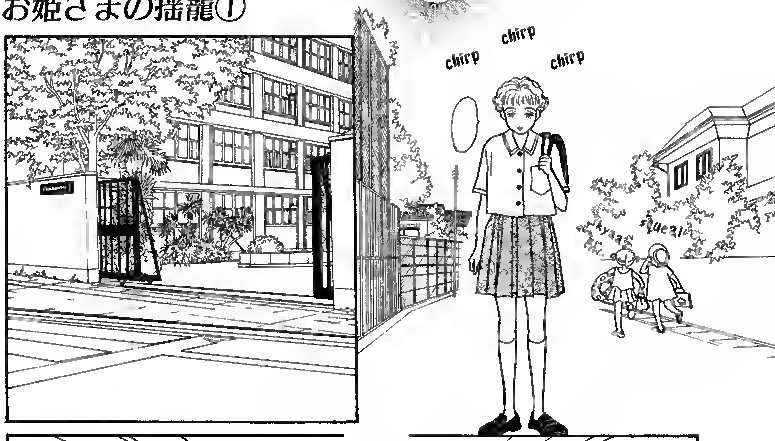


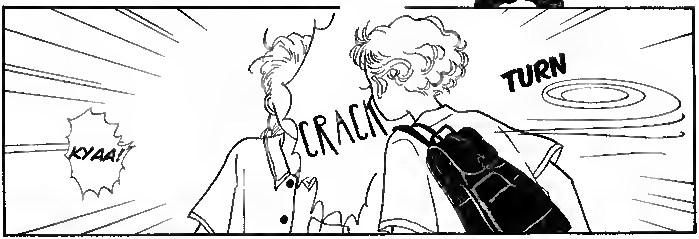


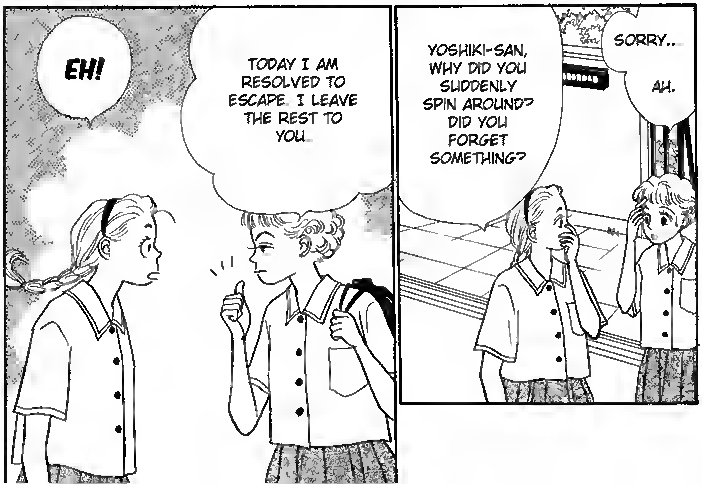


AS A 2ND YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT,
YOU MUST BE ABLE TO READ BOOKS OF THIS LEVEL.
YOU WILL READ THROUGH ALL OF THESE DURING YOUR FREE TIME.
THUNK
USE A DICTIONARY
IT'S... ALL KANJI I CAN'T READ IT.
NAIVE.
A GIRL WITH BAD GRADES CANNOT WISH FOR THE VACATION OF A NORMAL PERSON
GRANDMA KANAE, IT'S SUMMER VACATION SO AT LEAST AFTER CLASSES CAN'T I RELAX FOR A BIT...
SHE MAY BE A DEMON.

お姫さまの揺籠(ゆりかご)①

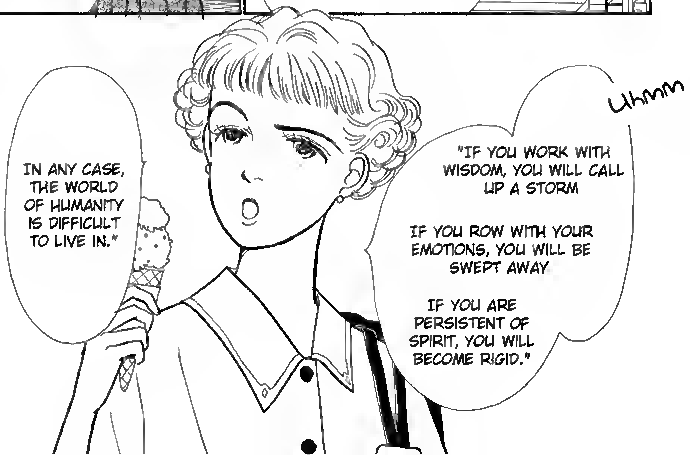


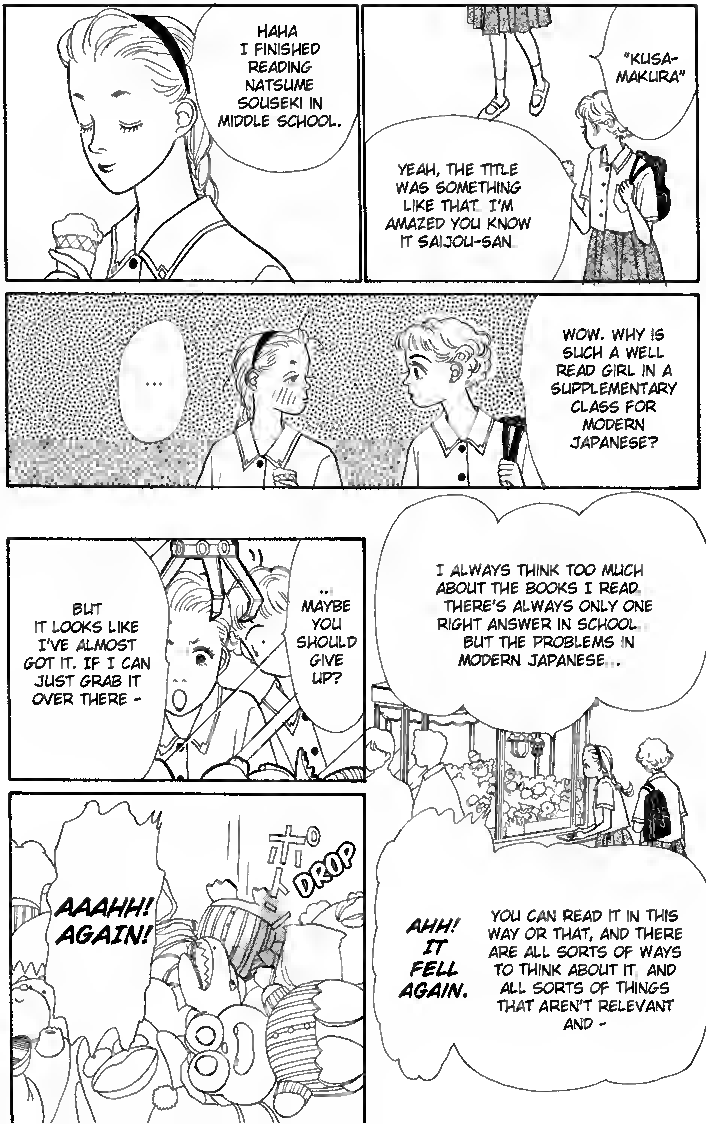


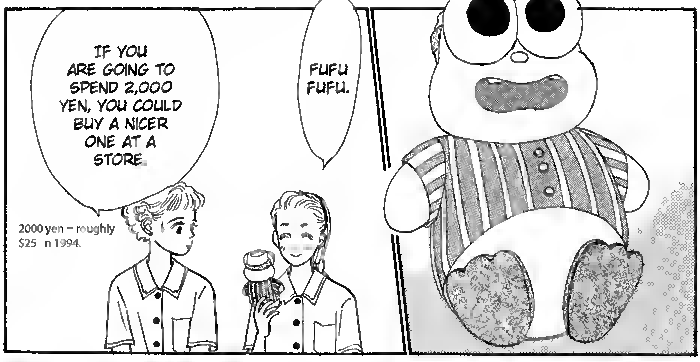


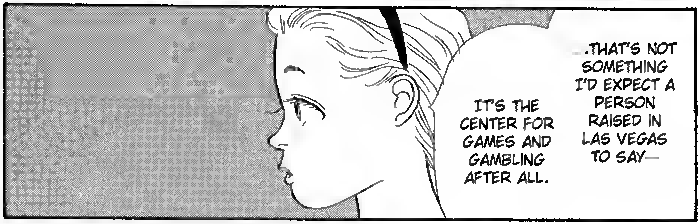
EXPLOSIVE
WA... WAIT YOSHIKI-SAN
IT'S HELL
WITHOUT THIS, JAPAN'S SUMMER VACATION IS TOO SHORT
GAME
GAME
YOU KNOW, WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE TALKED LIKE THIS.
UFUFU, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY THIS ONCE.
YOU KNOW YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALONG SAIJOU-SAN.

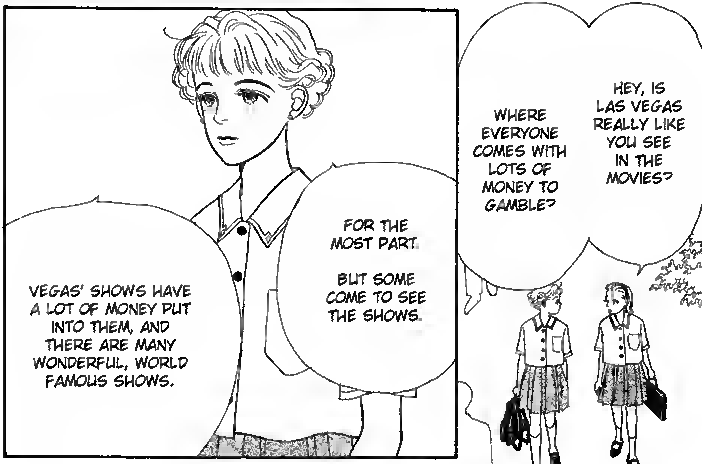
お姫さまの揺籠(ゆりかご)①

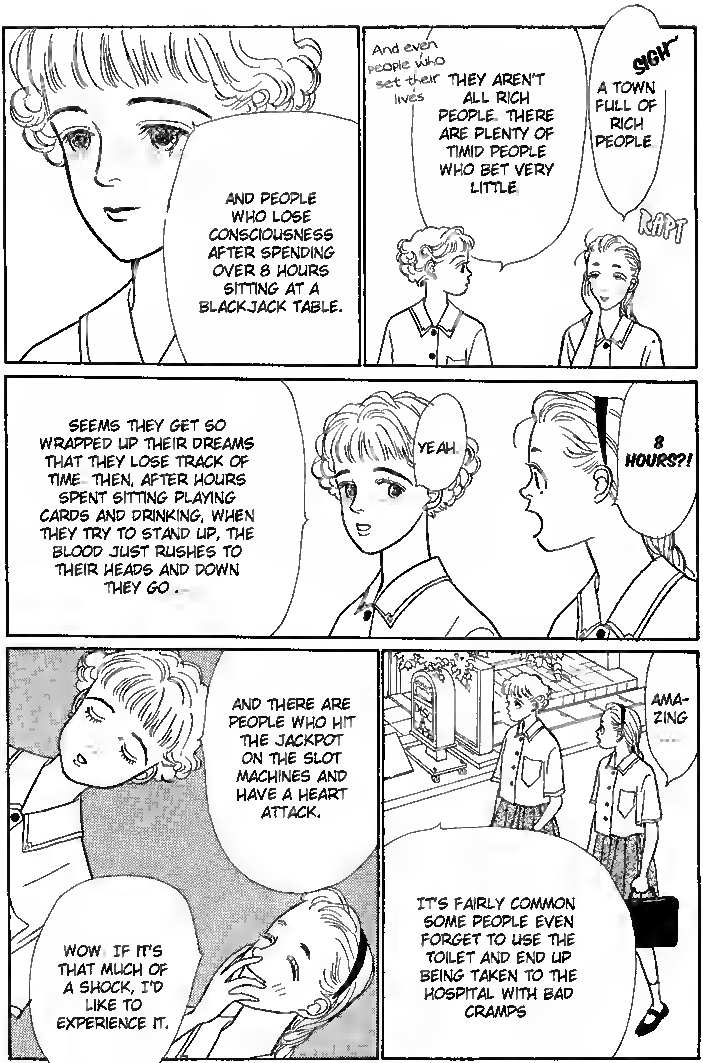


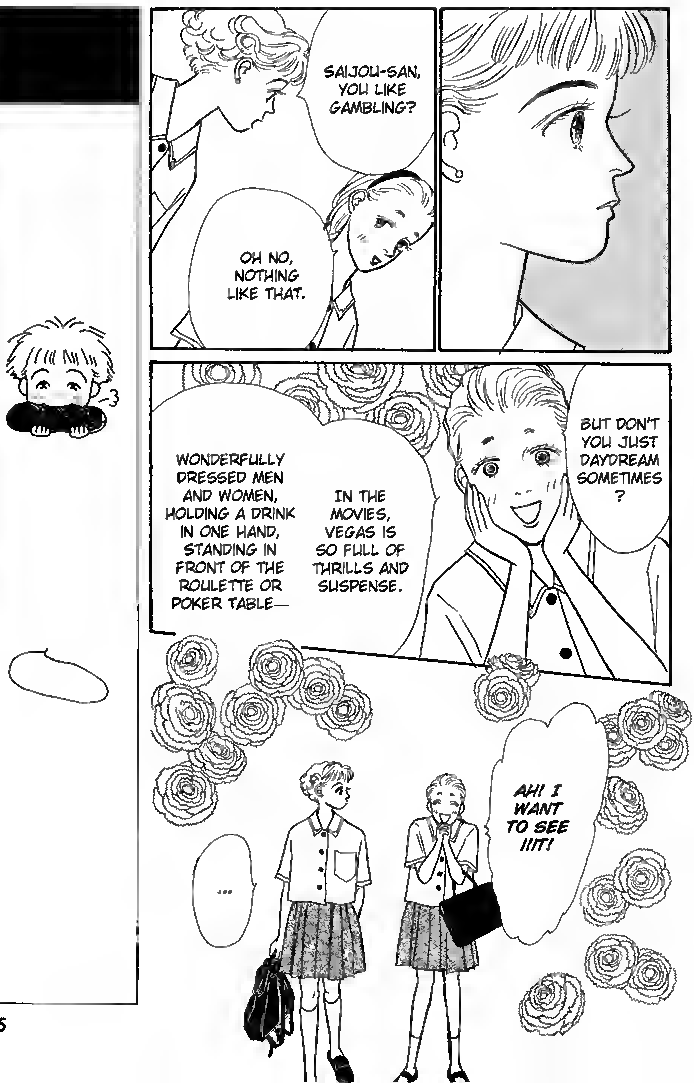

HAHA I FINISHED READING NATSUME SOUSEKI IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
"KUSA-MAKURA"
YEAH, THE TITLE WAS SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I'M AMAZED YOU KNOW IT SAIJOU-SAN.
...
WOW. WHY IS SUCH A WELL READ GIRL IN A SUPPLEMENTARY CLASS FOR MODERN JAPANESE?
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE ALMOST GOT IT. IF I CAN JUST GRAB IT OVER THERE -
.. MAYBE YOU SHOULD GIVE UP?
I ALWAYS THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT THE BOOKS I READ. THERE'S ALWAYS ONLY ONE RIGHT ANSWER IN SCHOOL... BUT THE PROBLEMS IN MODERN JAPANESE...
AAAHH! AGAIN!
DROP
AHH! IT FELL AGAIN.
YOU CAN READ IT IN THIS WAY OR THAT, AND THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF WAYS TO THINK ABOUT IT. AND ALL SORTS OF THINGS THAT AREN'T RELEVANT AND -

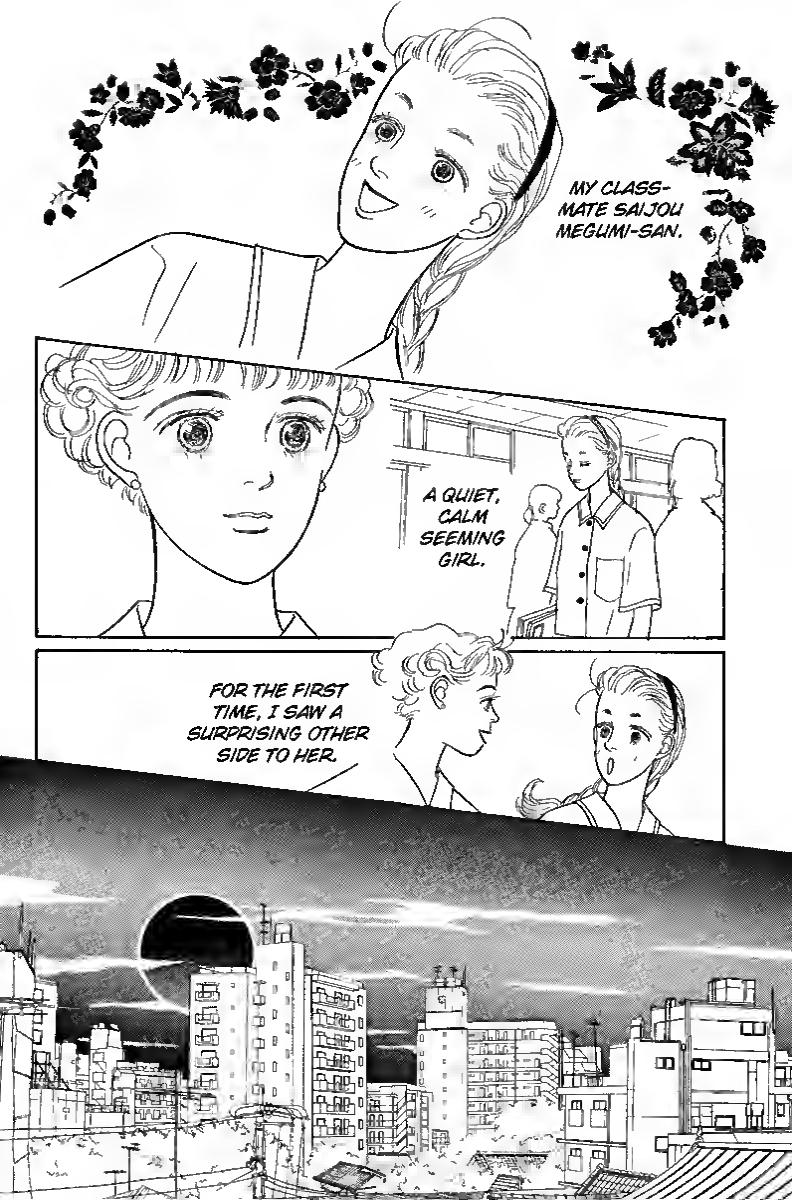

IF YOU ARE GOING TO SPEND 2,000 YEN, YOU COULD BUY A NICER ONE AT A STORE.
FUFU FUFU.
2000 yen = roughly $25 in 1994.


IT'S THE CENTER FOR GAMES AND GAMBLING AFTER ALL.
...THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I'D EXPECT A PERSON RAISED IN LAS VEGAS TO SAY—

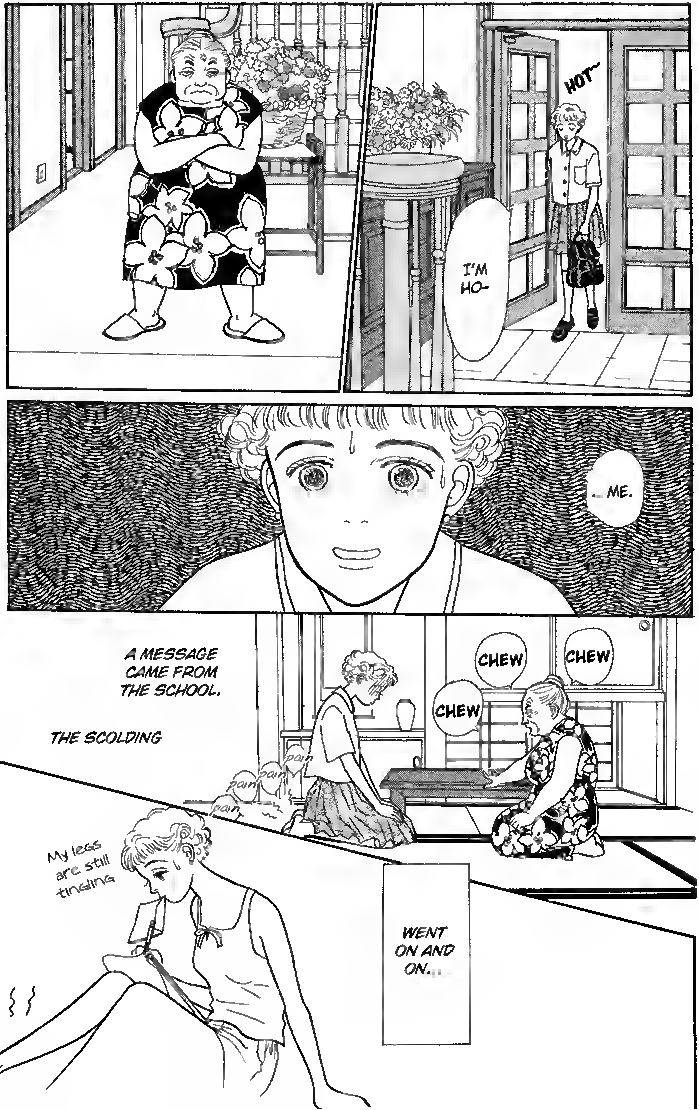

VEGAS' SHOWS HAVE A LOT OF MONEY PUT INTO THEM, AND THERE ARE MANY WONDERFUL, WORLD FAMOUS SHOWS.
FOR THE MOST PART.
BUT SOME COME TO SEE THE SHOWS.
WHERE EVERYONE COMES WITH LOTS OF MONEY TO GAMBLE?
HEY, IS LAS VEGAS REALLY LIKE YOU SEE IN THE MOVIES?

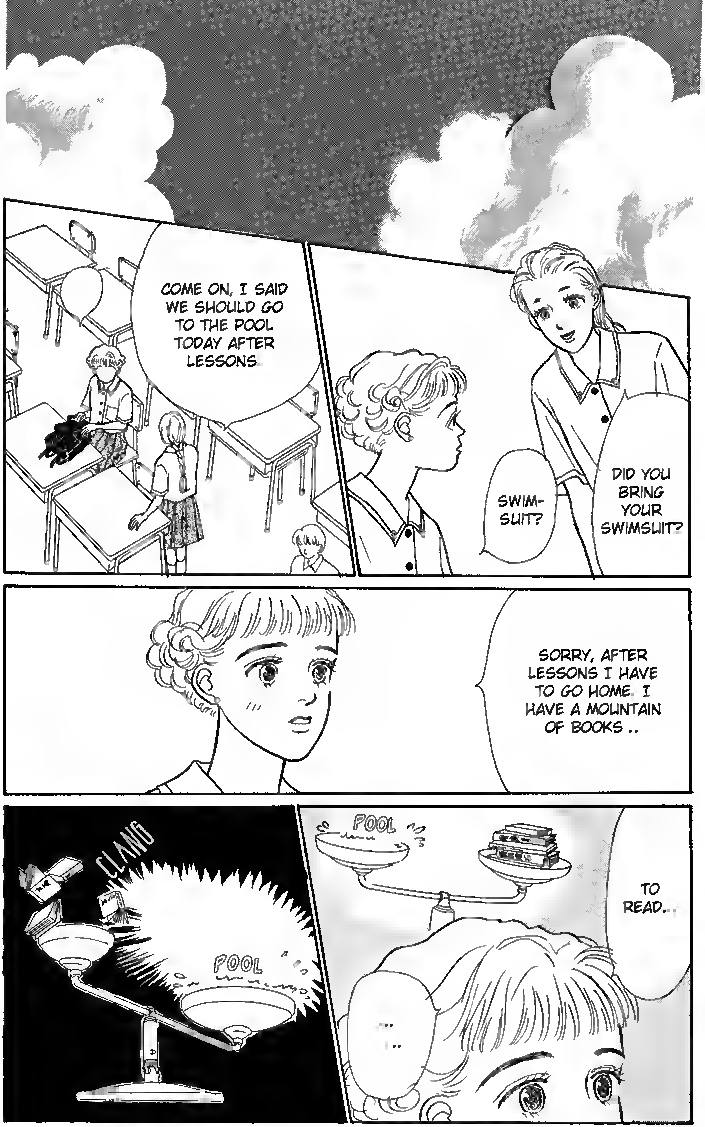

AND PEOPLE WHO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS AFTER SPENDING OVER 8 HOURS SITTING AT A BLACKJACK TABLE.
And even people who set their lives
THEY AREN'T ALL RICH PEOPLE. THERE ARE PLENTY OF TIMID PEOPLE WHO BET VERY LITTLE
SIGH
A TOWN FULL OF RICH PEOPLE
RAPT
SEEMS THEY GET SO WRAPPED UP THEIR DREAMS THAT THEY LOSE TRACK OF TIME. THEN, AFTER HOURS SPENT SITTING PLAYING CARDS AND DRINKING, WHEN THEY TRY TO STAND UP, THE BLOOD JUST RUSHES TO THEIR HEADS AND DOWN THEY GO.
YEAH.
8 HOURS?!
AND THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HIT THE JACKPOT ON THE SLOT MACHINES AND HAVE A HEART ATTACK.
WOW. IF IT'S THAT MUCH OF A SHOCK, I'D LIKE TO EXPERIENCE IT.
AMA-ZING
IT'S FAIRLY COMMON SOME PEOPLE EVEN FORGET TO USE THE TOILET AND END UP BEING TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL WITH BAD CRAMPS

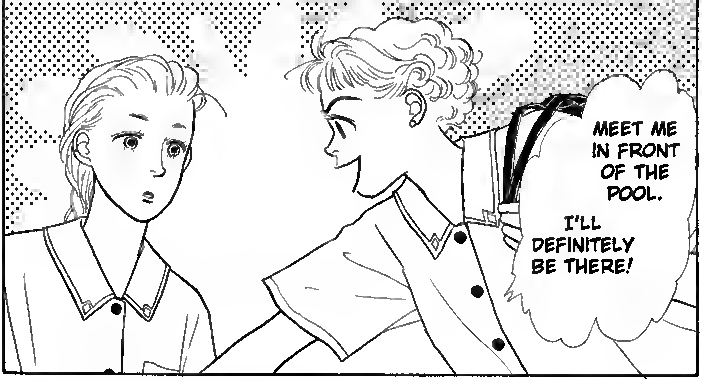

SAIJOU-SAN, YOU LIKE GAMBLING?
OH NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT.
BUT DON'T YOU JUST DAYDREAM SOMETIMES?
IN THE MOVIES, VEGAS IS SO FULL OF THRILLS AND SUSPENSE.
WONDERFULLY DRESSED MEN AND WOMEN, HOLDING A DRINK IN ONE HAND, STANDING IN FRONT OF THE ROULETTE OR POKER TABLE—
AH! I WANT TO SEE IIIT!
...


MY CLASS-
MATE SAIJOU
MEGUMI-SAN.
A QUIET,
CALM
SEEMING
GIRL.
FOR THE FIRST
TIME, I SAW A
SURPRISING OTHER
SIDE TO HER.

お姫さまの揺籠(ゆりかご)①

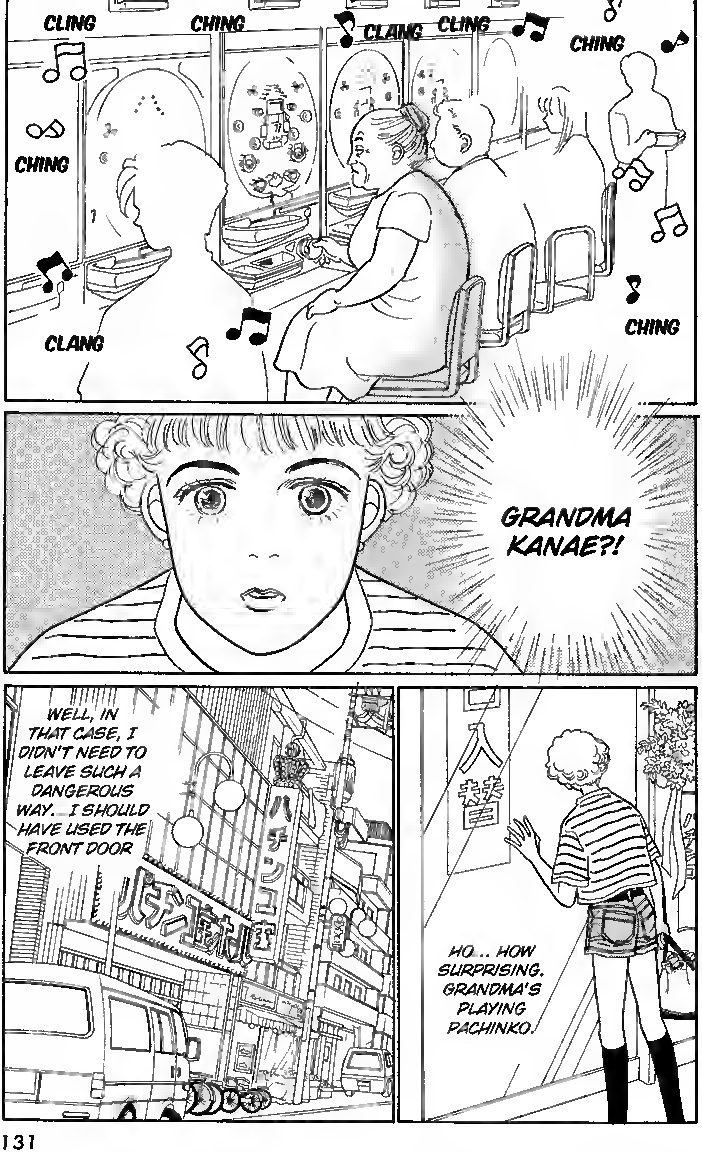



COME ON, I SAID WE SHOULD GO TO THE POOL TODAY AFTER LESSONS...
SWIM-SUIT?
DID YOU BRING YOUR SWIMSUIT?
SORRY, AFTER LESSONS I HAVE TO GO HOME. I HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF BOOKS..
CLANG
POOL
POOL
TO READ...
...


MEET ME IN FRONT OF THE POOL.
I'LL DEFINITELY BE THERE!

CLOSE
DON'T SLACK OFF
The Dancing Girl of Izu
伊豆の踊子
Yasunari Kawabata
伊豆の踊子
Tie
SWEAK

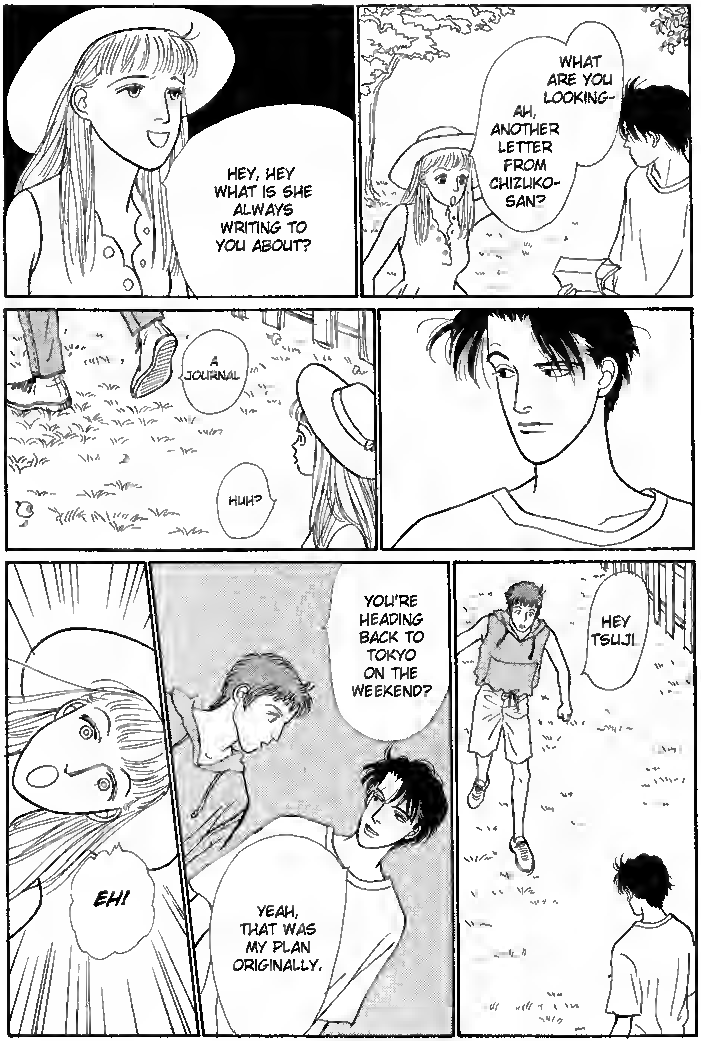
I'M SORRY GRANDMA
LAND
LOWER
CLIMBER
ALL WORK AND NO PLAY MAKE ME A DULL GIRL
RUN
NOW!
IT'S ALL RIGHT IF I CATCH THE TRAIN NOW I CAN STILL MAKE IT.
HUHH?!
PACHINCO
I CAN MAKE IT. I CAN MAKE IT.


CLING
CHING
CLANG
CLING
CHING
CHING
CLANG
CHING
GRANDMA KANAE?!
WELL, IN THAT CASE, I DIDN'T NEED TO LEAVE SUCH A DANGEROUS WAY. I SHOULD HAVE USED THE FRONT DOOR
入替
HO... HOW SURPRISING. GRANDMA'S PLAYING PACHINKO!

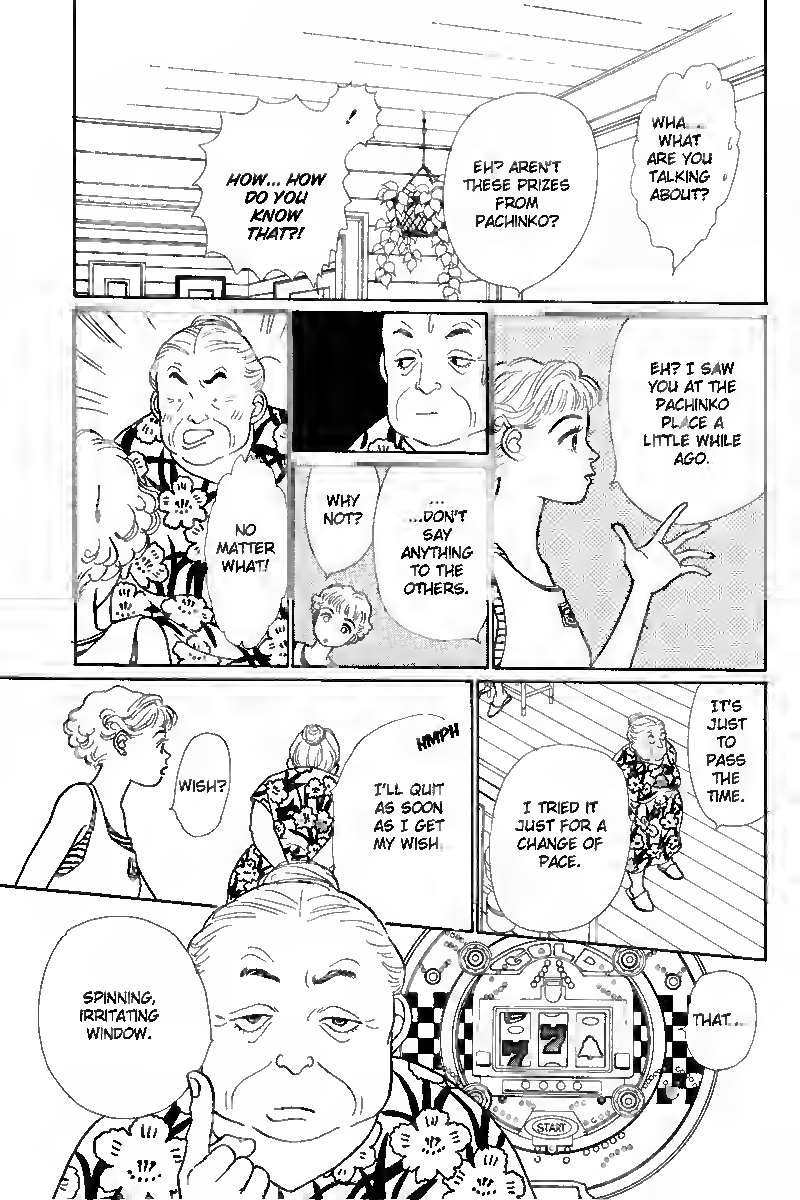
Kyaa
Kyaa
PACHINKO?
MY FATHER SAID HE USED TO PLAY A LOT TO PASS THE TIME.
HE ALWAYS BRING HOME CHOCOLATES, OR DETERGENT, OR THINGS LIKE THAT.
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO PLAY ANYMORE THOUGH.
WHY NOT?
PROBABLY BECAUSE HE NEVER REALLY WON
HE USED UP HIS POCKET MONEY IN NO TIME, SO MOTHER GOT ANGRY AND TOLD HIM TO STOP.
...JAPAN IS PRETTY STRICT FOR FATHERS TOO
AHAHA HAHA!

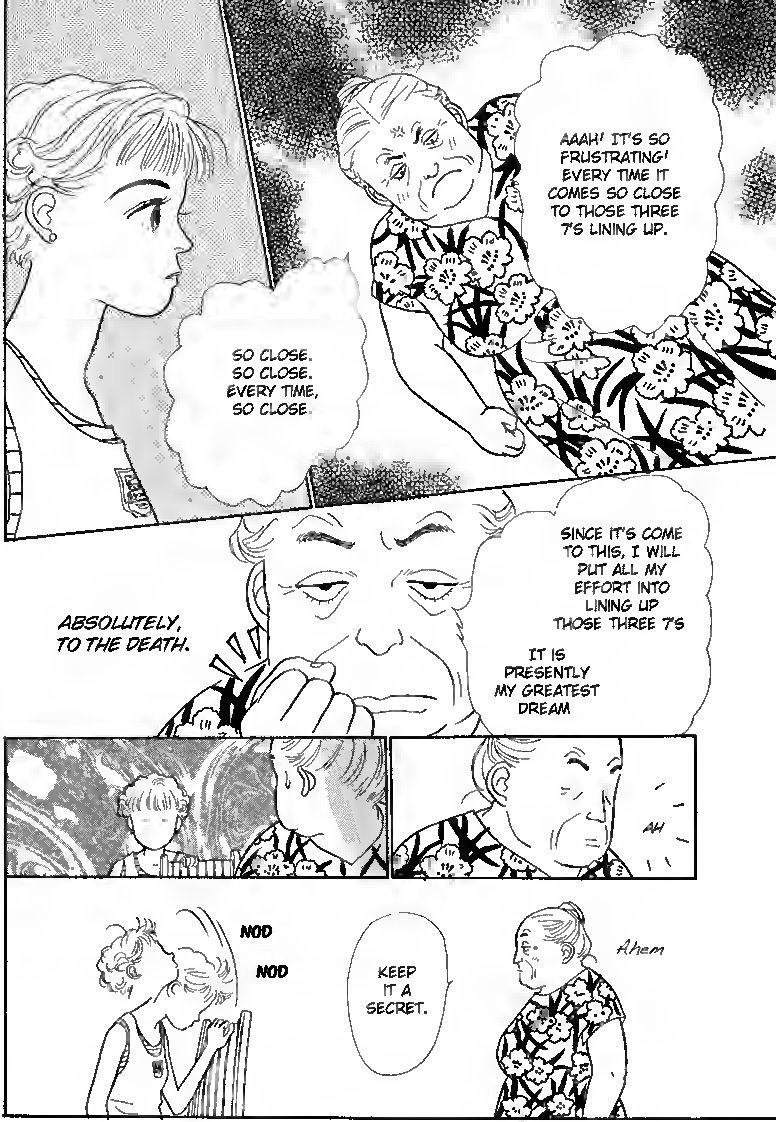
お姫さまの揺籠(ゆりかご)①

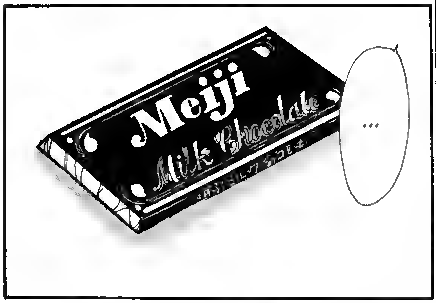
CRASH
KKYAAAAA!
...
SNIP
NO WAY.
I REALLY THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE.
GRANDMA KANAE IS AN OGRE.
TSUJI-SAAAN!
...

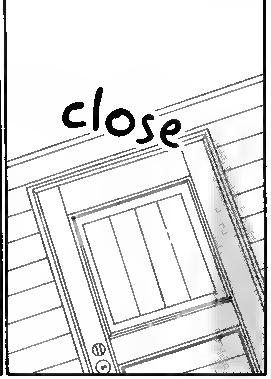

HEY, HEY WHAT IS SHE ALWAYS WRITING TO YOU ABOUT?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING-
AH, ANOTHER LETTER FROM CHIZUKO-SAN?
A JOURNAL
HUH?
HEY TSUJI
YOU'RE HEADING BACK TO TOKYO ON THE WEEKEND?
YEAH, THAT WAS MY PLAN ORIGINALLY.
EH!

MOM AND DAD ARE STAYING HERE A WHILE LONGER, YOU STAY TOO
Why?
I'LL COME TOO
YOU AREN'T STAYING HERE THE WHOLE HOLIDAY?
PERFECT
I'LL HEAD BACK WITH YOU.
I was starting to get bored
NO WAY!
I see
AH
WOW, GRANDMA YOU MUST BE GOOD AT PA-CHINKO.
YOU WON THEM.
Thank you so much!
YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING SERIOUSLY THIS TIME, SO HERE'S A REWARD
Meiji
Milk Chocolate


HOW... HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?!
EH? AREN'T THESE PRIZES FROM PACHINKO?
WHA... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
NO MATTER WHAT!
WHY NOT?
...DON'T SAY ANYTHING TO THE OTHERS.
EH? I SAW YOU AT THE PACHINKO PLACE A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
WISH?
HMPH
I'LL QUIT AS SOON AS I GET MY WISH.
I TRIED IT JUST FOR A CHANGE OF PACE.
IT'S JUST TO PASS THE TIME.
SPINNING, IRRITATING WINDOW.
THAT..
START


AAAH! IT'S SO FRUSTRATING! EVERY TIME IT COMES SO CLOSE TO THOSE THREE 7'S LINING UP.
SO CLOSE. SO CLOSE. EVERY TIME, SO CLOSE.
SINCE IT'S COME TO THIS, I WILL PUT ALL MY EFFORT INTO LINING UP THOSE THREE 7'S
IT IS PRESENTLY MY GREATEST DREAM
ABSOLUTELY, TO THE DEATH.
AH
NOD
NOD
KEEP IT A SECRET.
Ahem


Meiji
Milk Chocolate
...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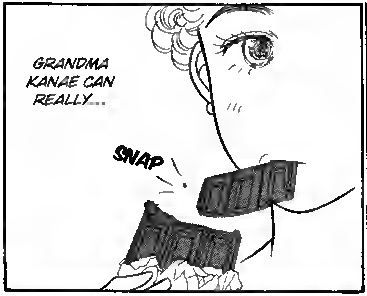
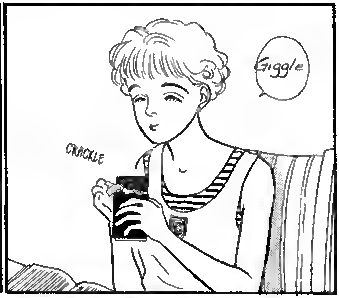
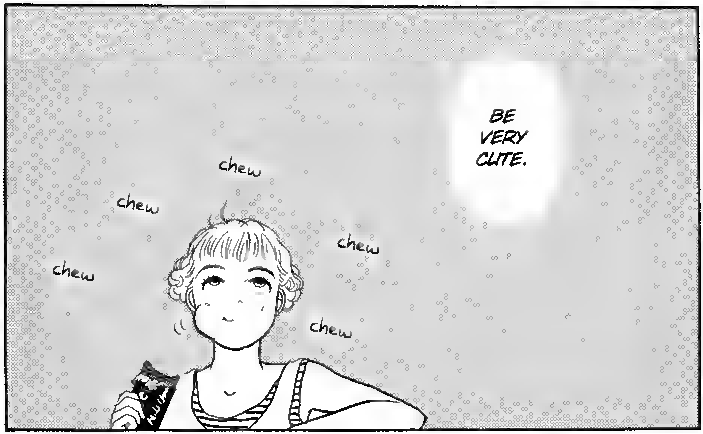

GRANDMA KANAE CAN REALLY...
SNAP

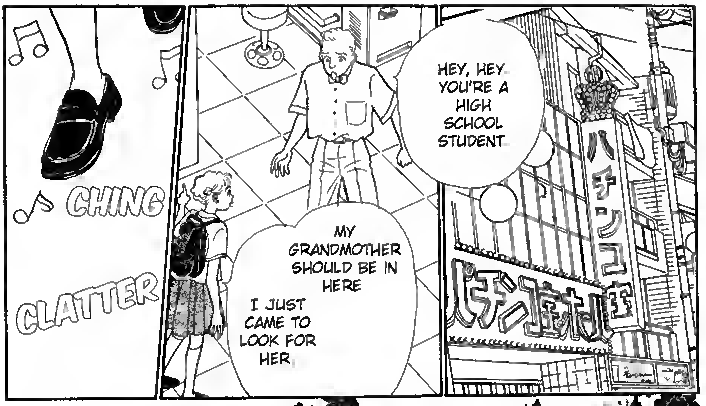

Giggle
CRACKLE


BE VERY CUTE.
chew
chew
chew
chew
chew

A parfait maybe?
WANT TO GO GET SOMETHING COLD TO EAT?
YOSHIKI-SAN.
SORRY. I HAVE SOME THINGS I NEED TO DO TODAY. NEXT TIME, OK?

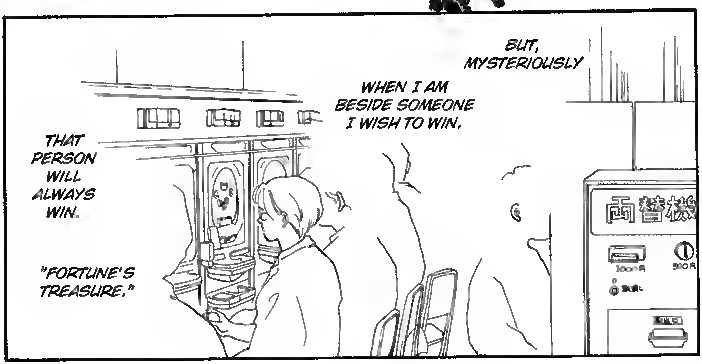
SINCE THEN, EVERY NOW AND THEN,
GRANDMA KANAE BRINGS ME SOME OF THE SPOILS FROM HER WAR.
CHOCOLATE

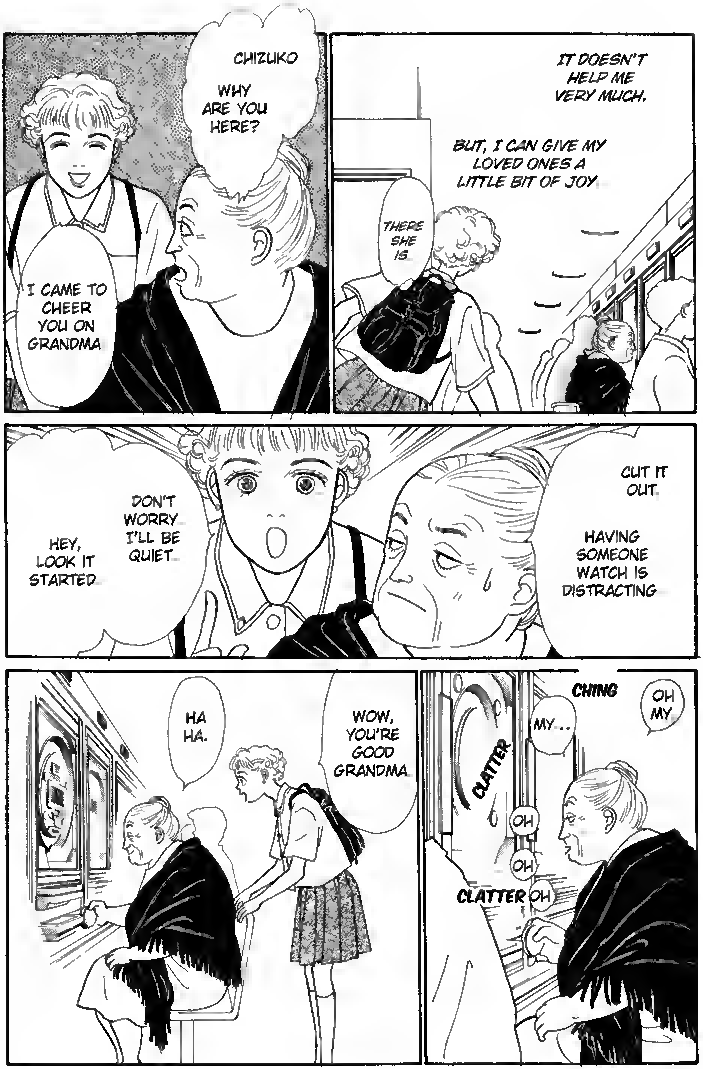
ON DAYS WHEN SHE BROUGHT NOTHING, SHE MUST HAVE LOST.
WELL YOU SEE TODAY, THE TABLE WAS NO GOOD. NOT LUCKY AT ALL.
LIKE SO.
THAT STORE IS NO GOOD
THE WAY THEY HIT THE SPIKES IS TERRIBLE
AND SO, SHE EXPLAINED VARIOUS THINGS TO ME.
DID YOU KNOW YOUR GRANDFATHER ALSO ENJOYED PACHINKO?
BACK THEN, THEY WEREN'T LIKE THE AUTOMATIC MACHINES WE HAVE TODAY.
YOU HAD TO SNAP THEM UP WITH YOUR FINGER, ONE BY ONE.



I MYSELF HAVE NO LUCK AT ALL IN GAMBLING, TO THE POINT WHERE I CAN'T EVEN WIN ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS.

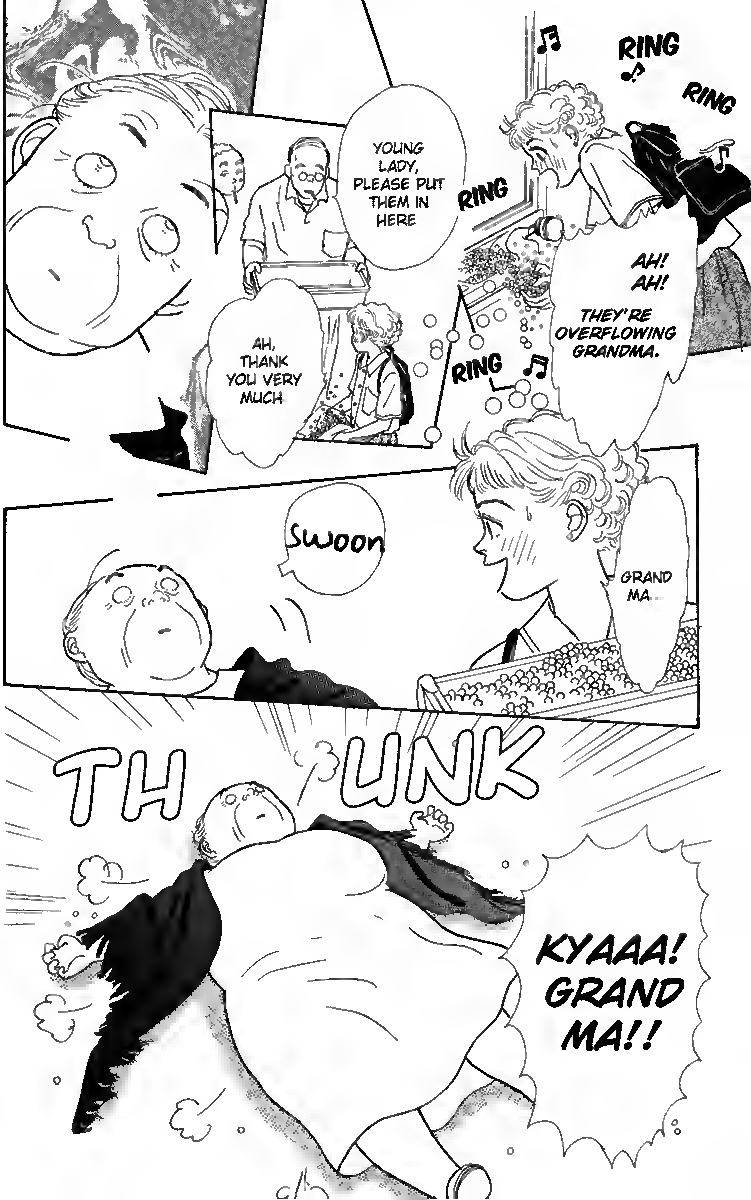
MY LATE FATHER CALLED ME "FORTUNE'S TREASURE."



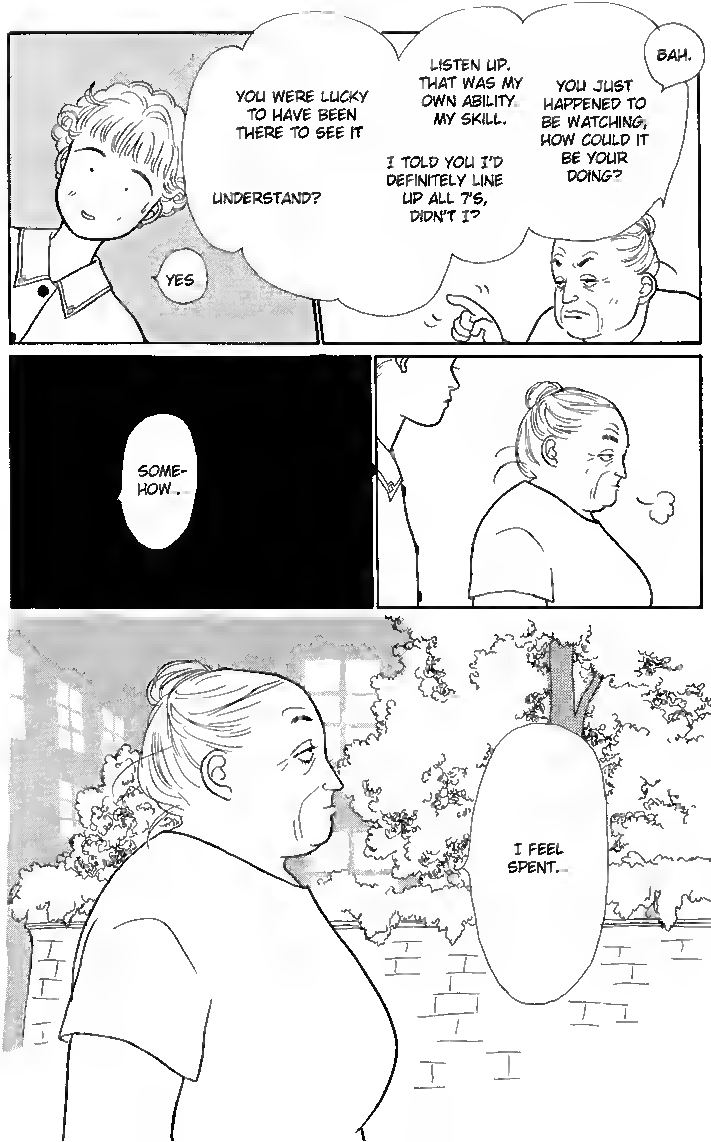

CHIZUKO
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I CAME TO CHEER YOU ON GRANDMA
IT DOESN'T HELP ME VERY MUCH.
BUT, I CAN GIVE MY LOVED ONES A LITTLE BIT OF JOY.
THERE SHE IS.
HEY, LOOK IT STARTED.
DON'T WORRY I'LL BE QUIET.
CUT IT OUT.
HAVING SOMEONE WATCH IS DISTRACTING
HA HA.
WOW, YOU'RE GOOD GRANDMA.
CHING
OH MY
MY..
CLATTER
OH
OH
CLATTER
OH

AH NO GOOD.
NO MATTER WHAT, THOSE 7S JUST WON'T LINE UP FOR ME.
WATCH, JUST LIKE ALWAYS.
7
7
GRANDMA, JUST ONE MORE!
IT'S JUST LIKE ROULETTE.
YE .. YEAH
THIS IS THE HARDEST ONE OF ALL.
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS UP TO HERE.
Gulp

RIIINNNG
RING
RIINNG
KACHING
7 7 7
KYAAA!
GRANDMA YOU DID IT!!
THAT'S AMAZING GRANDMA! THE 7S ARE ALL LINED UP!
WOW. LOOK GRANDMA, LOTS OF BALLS ARE POURING OUT!
CHIME
CHING
RING
CLANG
DING
KACHING


RING
RING
RING
YOUNG LADY, PLEASE PUT THEM IN HERE
AH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH
AH! AH!
THEY'RE OVERFLOWING GRANDMA.
SWOON
GRAND MA...
TH UNK
KYAAA! GRAND MA!!

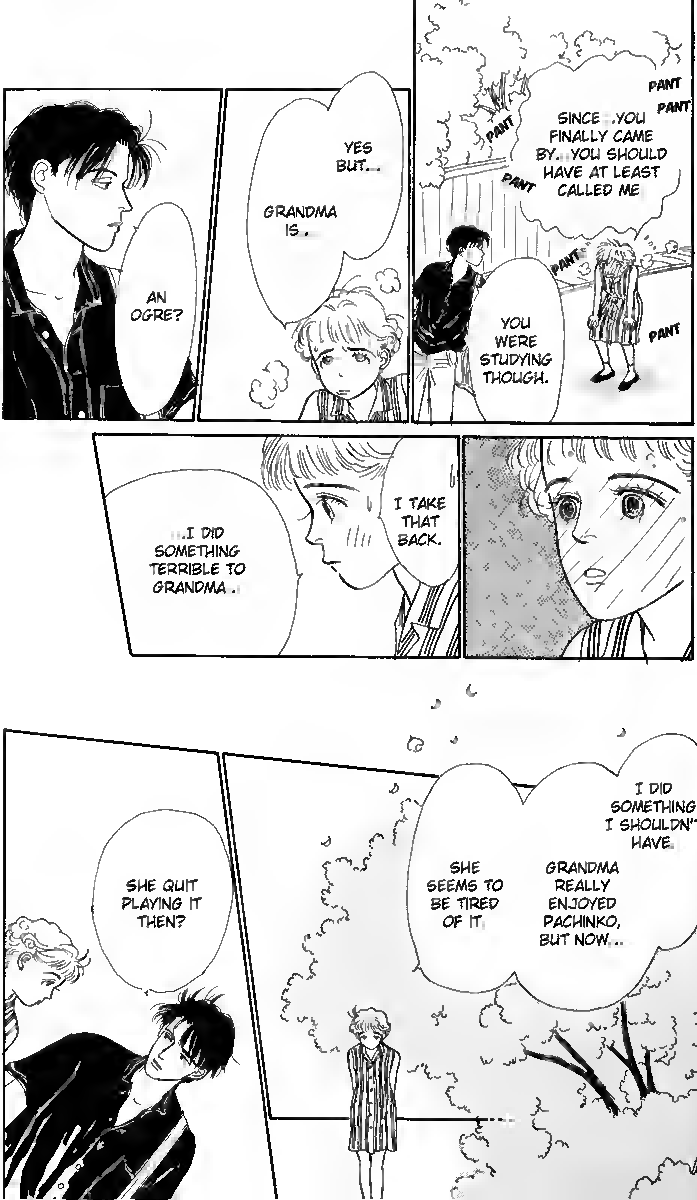
ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE. IT WAS JUST A TOUCH OF ANEMIA.
IT'S REALLY SAD TO FAINT FROM THAT.
I'M SORRY.
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
UH... MM BECAUSE OF ME... OR...

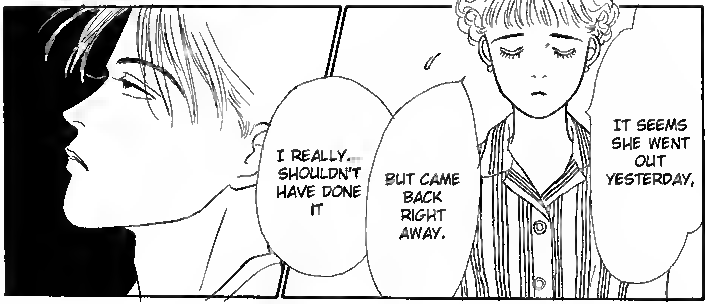

YES
UNDERSTAND?
YOU WERE LUCKY TO HAVE BEEN THERE TO SEE IT
I TOLD YOU I'D DEFINITELY LINE UP ALL 7'S, DIDN'T I?
LISTEN UP. THAT WAS MY OWN ABILITY. MY SKILL.
YOU JUST HAPPENED TO BE WATCHING. HOW COULD IT BE YOUR DOING?
BAH.
SOME-HOW..
I FEEL SPENT.

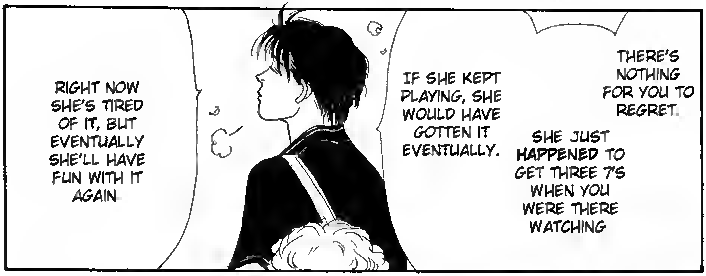
TADASHI-SAN, YOU CAME BACK EARLY?
YEAH.
TSUJI WAS HEADED THIS WAY SO I CAME ALONG WITH HIM
AH
HEY
EH!
TSUJI-SAN IS BACK TOO?!
HE WAS JUST HERE WITH SOUVENIRS FOR GRANDMA
There are some here for you too from Dad and the others

GRANDMA SAID YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF STUDYING AND NOT TO BOTHER YOU.
WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME?!
JUST A MOMENT AGO-
HEY! WHAT ABOUT THE HOKKAIDO SOUVENIRS?
WHEN DID TSUJI-SAN LEAVE?!
I'll chase after him!

TSUJI-SAAN!

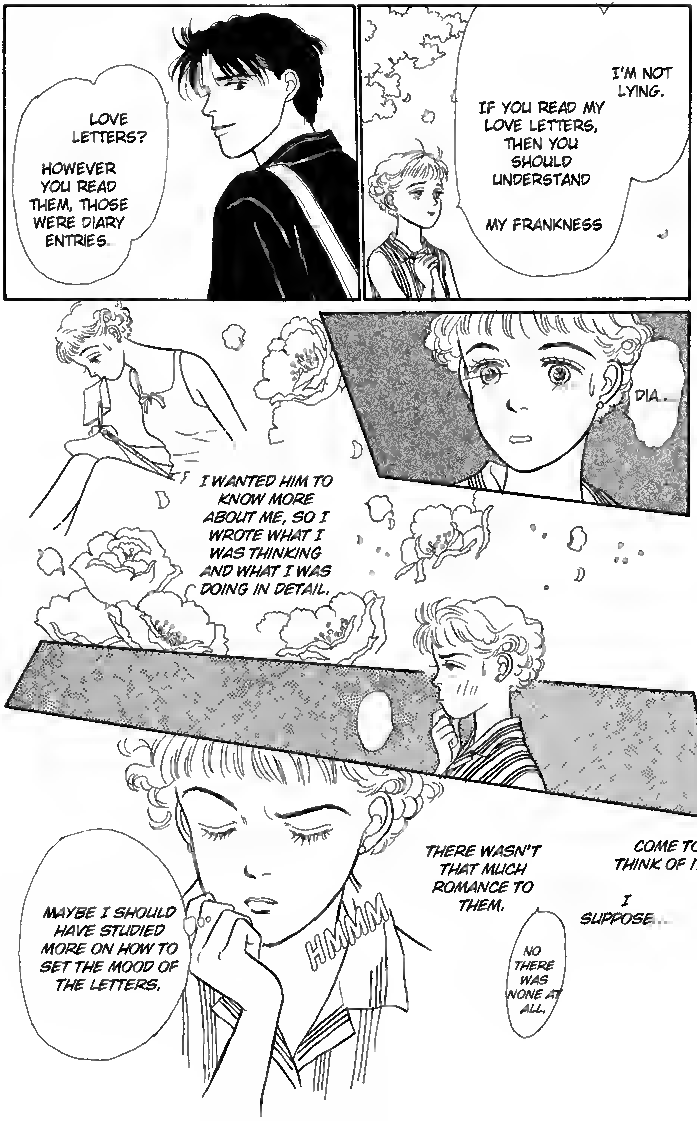

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
SINCE YOU FINALLY CAME BY, YOU SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST CALLED ME
YOU WERE STUDYING THOUGH.
YES BUT...
GRANDMA IS.
AN OGRE?
I TAKE THAT BACK.
...I DID SOMETHING TERRIBLE TO GRANDMA.
I DID SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T HAVE.
GRANDMA REALLY ENJOYED PACHINKO, BUT NOW...
SHE SEEMS TO BE TIRED OF IT.
SHE QUIT PLAYING IT THEN?


IT SEEMS SHE WENT OUT YESTERDAY,
BUT CAME BACK RIGHT AWAY.
I REALLY... SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT


THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO REGRET.
SHE JUST HAPPENED TO GET THREE 7'S WHEN YOU WERE THERE WATCHING
IF SHE KEPT PLAYING, SHE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN IT EVENTUALLY.
RIGHT NOW SHE'S TIRED OF IT, BUT EVENTUALLY SHE'LL HAVE FUN WITH IT AGAIN

.....
YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT DO YOU TSUJI-SAN?
THAT WHEN I AM WITH SOMEONE, THEY WILL BE LUCKY IN GAMBLING..

OF COURSE NOT
Is what his face says

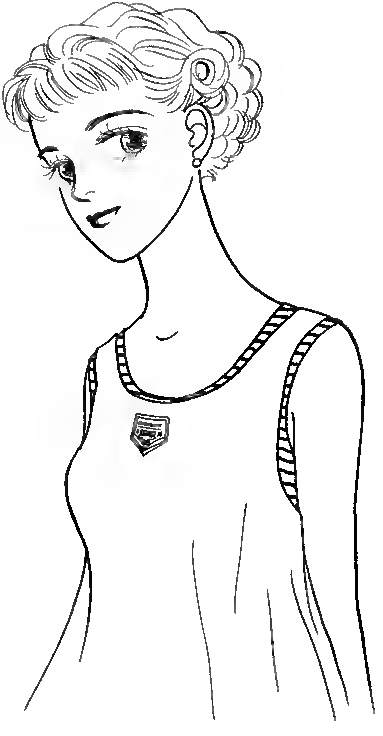

LOVE LETTERS?
HOWEVER YOU READ THEM, THOSE WERE DIARY ENTRIES.
I'M NOT LYING.
IF YOU READ MY LOVE LETTERS, THEN YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND
MY FRANKNESS
DIA...
I WANTED HIM TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ME, SO I WROTE WHAT I WAS THINKING AND WHAT I WAS DOING IN DETAIL.
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE STUDIED MORE ON HOW TO SET THE MOOD OF THE LETTERS.
HMMM
THERE WASN'T THAT MUCH ROMANCE TO THEM.
NO THERE WAS NONE AT ALL.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
I SUPPOSE...

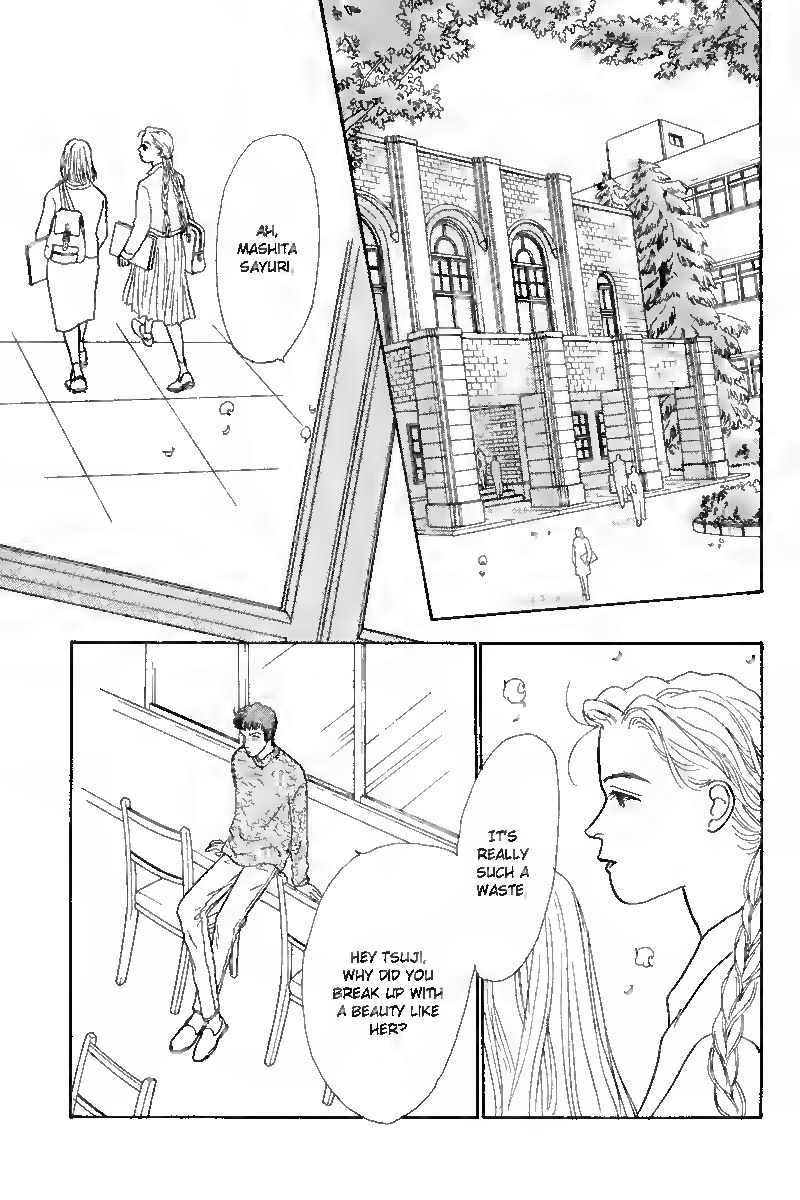
...YOU KNOW,
YOU REALLY SHOULD STUDY MORE
AHA! YOU THINK SO TOO!?
IT'S HARD TO READ WHEN IT'S ALL IN HIRAGANA
IT LOOKED LIKE AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KID'S DIARY.
SUMMER VACATION IS ALMOST OVER.
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
IT SEEMS THAT KANJI IS A VERY IMPORTANT ALPHABET TO THE JAPANESE. .

Scene 3 End

Ohimesama no Yurikago

SCENE 4

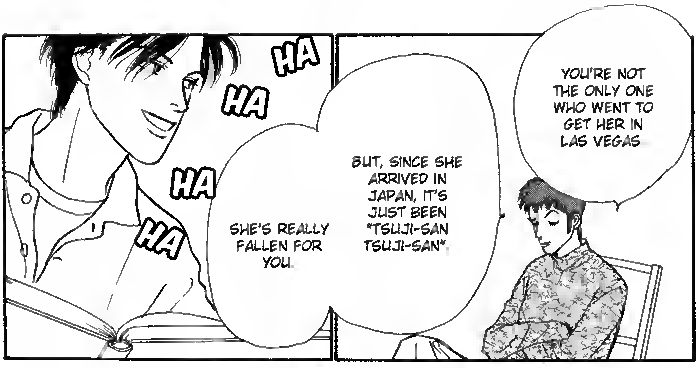


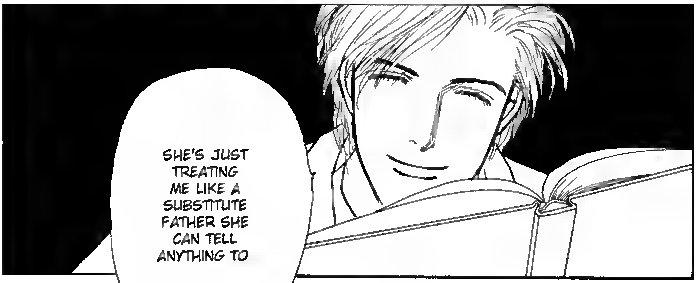

AH, MASHITA SAYURI.
HEY TSUJI, WHY DID YOU BREAK UP WITH A BEAUTY LIKE HER?
IT'S REALLY SUCH A WASTE.

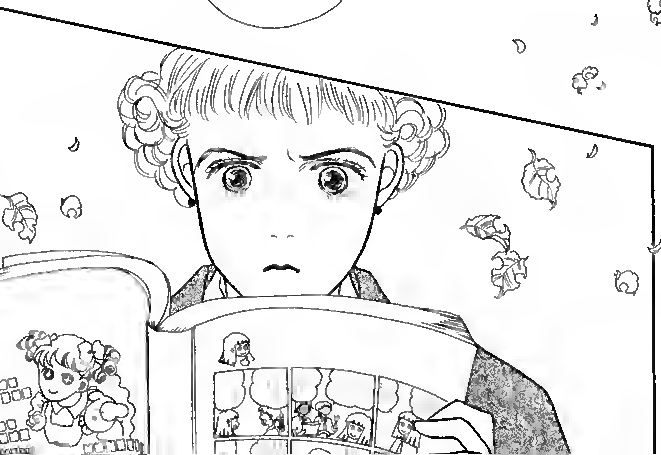
SO, WHY DID YOU BREAK UP?
I THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE GETTING ALONG PRETTY WELL
WHO KNOWS
'WHO KNOWS'?
ONE DAY SHE JUST SUDDENLY SAID IT
LET'S END THIS

WHAT A WOMAN EXPECTS FROM A MAN, WHAT MAKES HER THINK ABOUT BREAKING UP?
ISN'T THAT WHAT'S IMPORTANT?
YOU IDIOT WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK WHY?
WHY? DID SHE HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART? DID YOU EVEN ASK?
YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED
AND YOU JUST LET IT GO LIKE THAT...?
EH...
.....
.....
YOU'RE FIGHTING WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND AGAIN?
PANT
PANT
THIS TIME IT MIGHT REALLY BE THE END FOR US.
URK

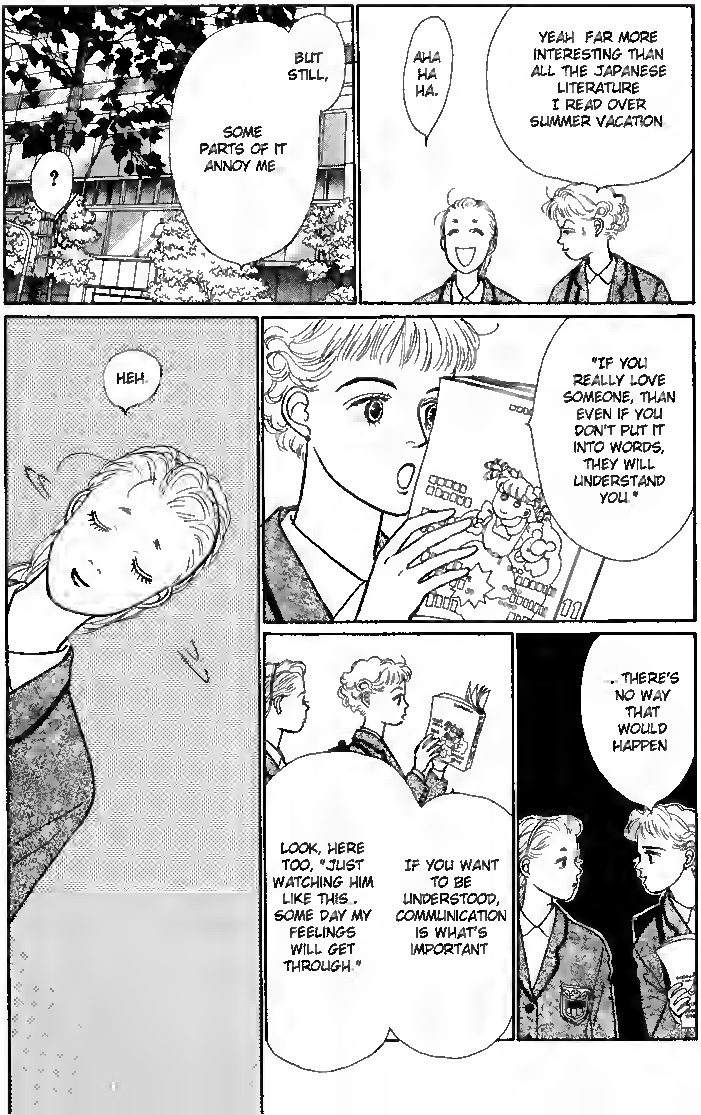
sob
really
I JUST CAN'T TELL WHAT WOMEN ARE THINKING.
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU SMILING FOR?
You're terrible
NO
I WAS JUST THINKING THERE ARE SOME GIRLS WHO JUST CAN'T HELP BUT SAY EVERYTHING THEY THINK.
AH YOU MEAN CHIZUKO?
TRUE TRUE MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE SHE WAS RAISED IN AMERICA SHE'S VERY OPEN


HA
HA
HA
HA
SHE'S REALLY FALLEN FOR YOU.
BUT, SINCE SHE ARRIVED IN JAPAN, IT'S JUST BEEN "TSUJI-SAN TSUJI-SAN".
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO WENT TO GET HER IN LAS VEGAS

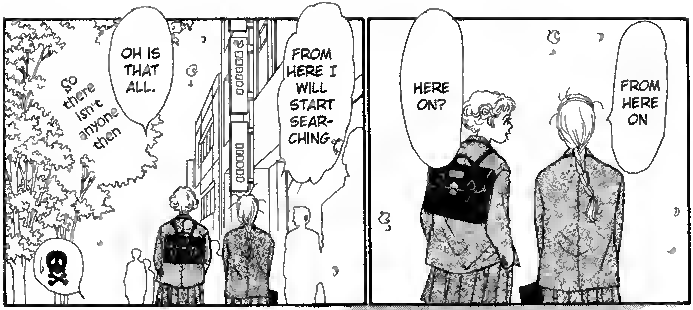

SHE'S JUST TREATING ME LIKE A SUBSTITUTE FATHER SHE CAN TELL ANYTHING TO



NO WAY.
YOU SHOULDN'T READ MANGA WITH THAT SERIOUS FACE
close
PHEW
BUT I HAVE TO READ AND LOOK AT THE PICTURES AT THE SAME TIME
IT'S MAKING MY EYES SPIN
ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT, YOU'LL READ THROUGH IT IN NO TIME
Really? In no time at all
DON'T YOU HAVE MANGA LIKE THESE IN AMERICA?
HMM
THERE ARE COMIC BOOKS
LIKE SUPERMAN OR SPIDERMAN
BUT COMICS AREN'T BROKEN DOWN LIKE THIS, BY AGE, AND FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
THAT'S PRETTY INTERES-TING ISN'T IT


BUT STILL,
SOME PARTS OF IT ANNOY ME
?
AHA HA HA.
YEAH FAR MORE INTERESTING THAN ALL THE JAPANESE LITERATURE I READ OVER SUMMER VACATION
HEH.
"IF YOU REALLY LOVE SOMEONE, THAN EVEN IF YOU DON'T PUT IT INTO WORDS, THEY WILL UNDERSTAND YOU."
LOOK, HERE TOO, "JUST WATCHING HIM LIKE THIS. SOME DAY MY FEELINGS WILL GET THROUGH."
IF YOU WANT TO BE UNDERSTOOD, COMMUNICATION IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT
... THERE'S NO WAY THAT WOULD HAPPEN

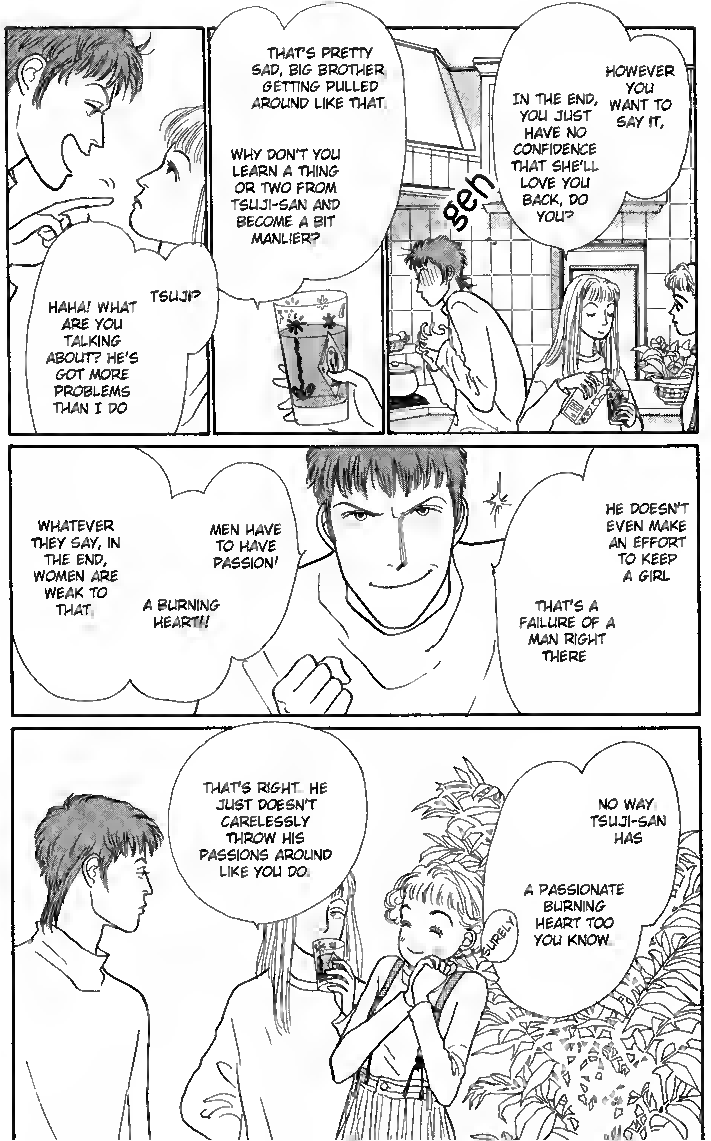
IT'S MYS-TERIO-US
EXPRESSING YOUR EMOTIONS ISN'T ALWAYS THE BEST WAY,
ESPECIALLY IN LOVE.
YOU'RE STILL PRETTY CHILDLIKE, YOSHIKI-SAN
not yet
IT'S WHAT MAKES LOVE DRAMATIC WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.
.....
HEEH
SAIJOU-SAN HAS A DRAMATIC AND MYSTERIOUS LOVE?
HEY! HEY! WHO IS IT?
WHERE DID YOU MEET?

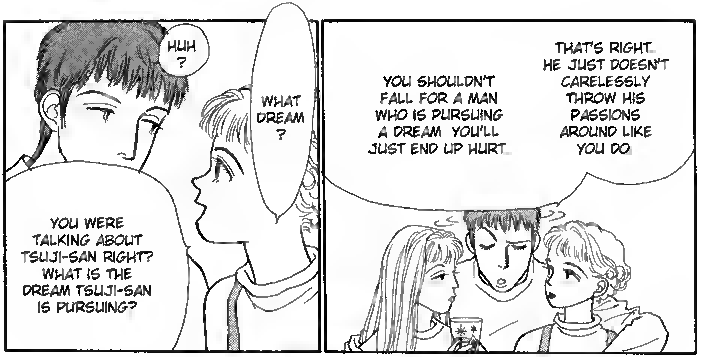

FROM HERE I WILL START SEARCHING.
OH IS THAT ALL.
So there isn't anyone then
FROM HERE ON
HERE ON?

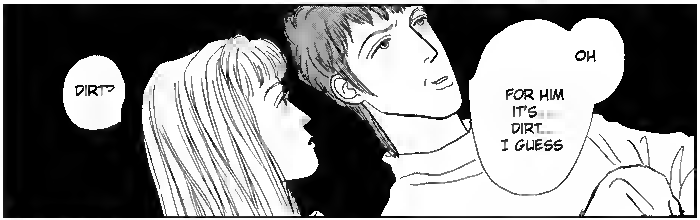
JUST WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE?
IF YOU WON'T TELL ME HOW WILL I KNOW?
OK. OK.
IF IT WAS MY FAULT, THEN I APOLOGIZE.
EH?
HEY WAIT!
HEY!
WAI-

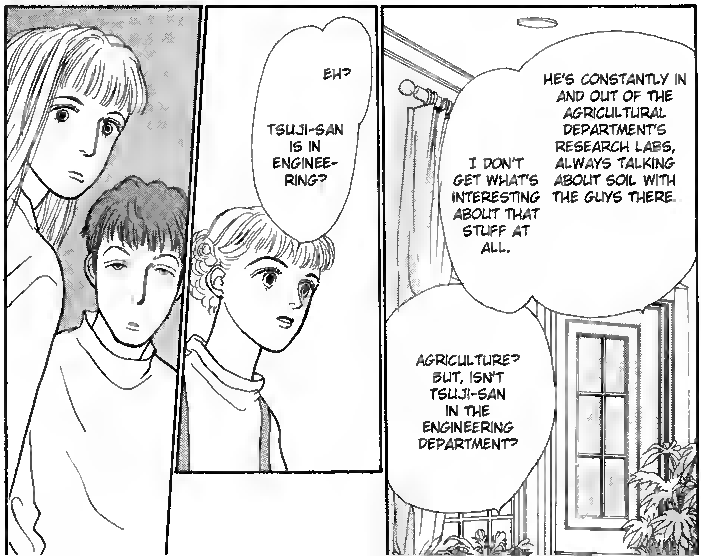
I'm home
WHAT?
TADASHI-SAN IS SITTING ON THE STAIRS, HOLDING THE PHONE AND CRYING
LEAVE HIM BE IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME
HE REALLY GETS INTO FIGHTS WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND THAT OFTEN?
SHH
I WOULDN'T REALLY CALL IT A FIGHT
IT'S MORE ONE-SIDED THAN THAT

ISN'T THAT WHAT LOVE IS?
THE REAL PROBLEM IS WHEN MY BROTHER FALLS FOR A GIRL HE NO LONGER SEES ANYTHING BUT HER.
IT'S A QUESTION OF DEGREE.
MY BROTHER EVEN STOPS BEING ABLE TO SEE HIMSELF.
HE LISTENS TO ANYTHING SHE SAYS.
INDULGES HER EVERY WHIM.
HE'S MORE LIKE A SLAVE THAN A LOVER.
...SHIHO-SAN, ISN'T THAT GOING A BIT FAR..
WAY TOO FAR
OH YOU WERE STILL THERE?
IN MY CASE
IT'S A PASSIONATE, OPEN AND ACCEPTING KIND OF LOVE.


HAHA! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HE'S GOT MORE PROBLEMS THAN I DO
TSUJI?
THAT'S PRETTY SAD, BIG BROTHER GETTING PULLED AROUND LIKE THAT.
WHY DON'T YOU LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM TSUJI-SAN AND BECOME A BIT MANLIER?
gen
HOWEVER YOU WANT TO SAY IT,
IN THE END, YOU JUST HAVE NO CONFIDENCE THAT SHE'LL LOVE YOU BACK, DO YOU?
WHATEVER THEY SAY, IN THE END, WOMEN ARE WEAK TO THAT.
A BURNING HEART!!
MEN HAVE TO HAVE PASSION!
HE DOESN'T EVEN MAKE AN EFFORT TO KEEP A GIRL
THAT'S A FAILURE OF A MAN RIGHT THERE
THAT'S RIGHT. HE JUST DOESN'T CARELESSLY THROW HIS PASSIONS AROUND LIKE YOU DO.
SURELY
NO WAY. TSUJI-SAN HAS
A PASSIONATE BURNING HEART TOO YOU KNOW.

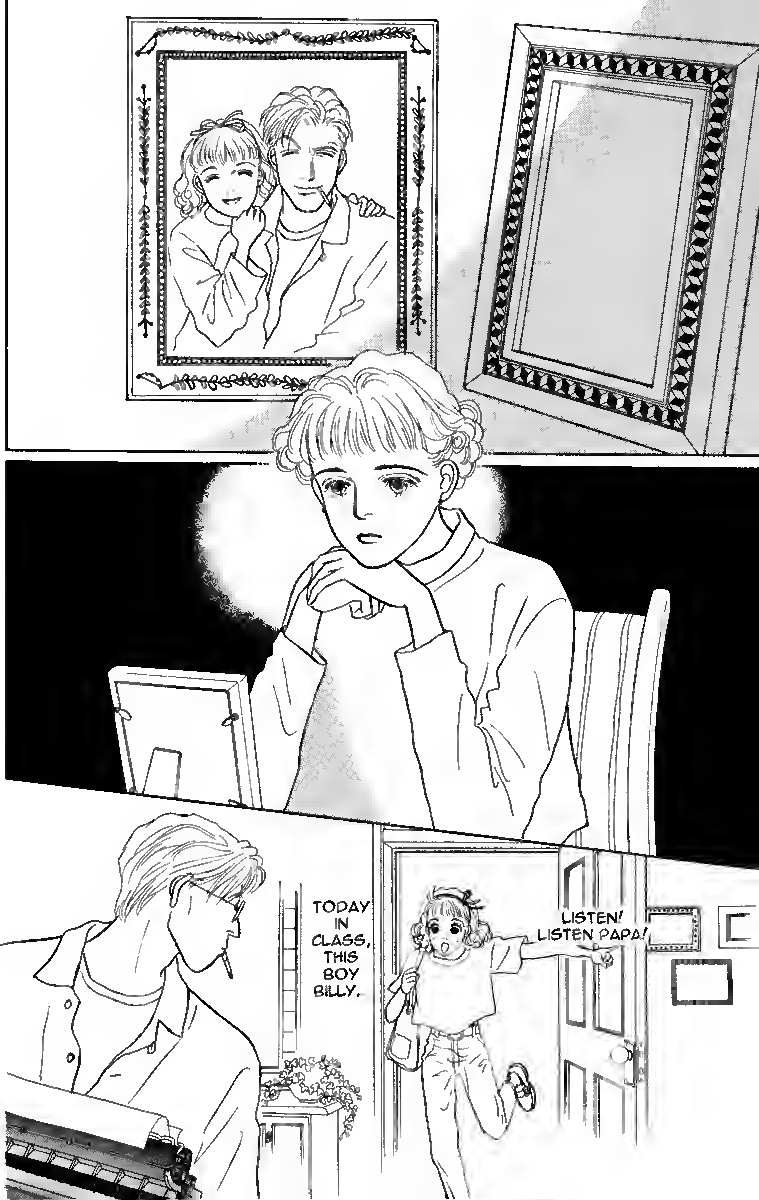

HUH ?
WHAT DREAM ?
YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT TSUJI-SAN RIGHT? WHAT IS THE DREAM TSUJI-SAN IS PURSUING?
YOU SHOULDN'T FALL FOR A MAN WHO IS PURSUING A DREAM. YOU'LL JUST END UP HURT.
THAT'S RIGHT. HE JUST DOESN'T CARELESSLY THROW HIS PASSIONS AROUND LIKE YOU DO.

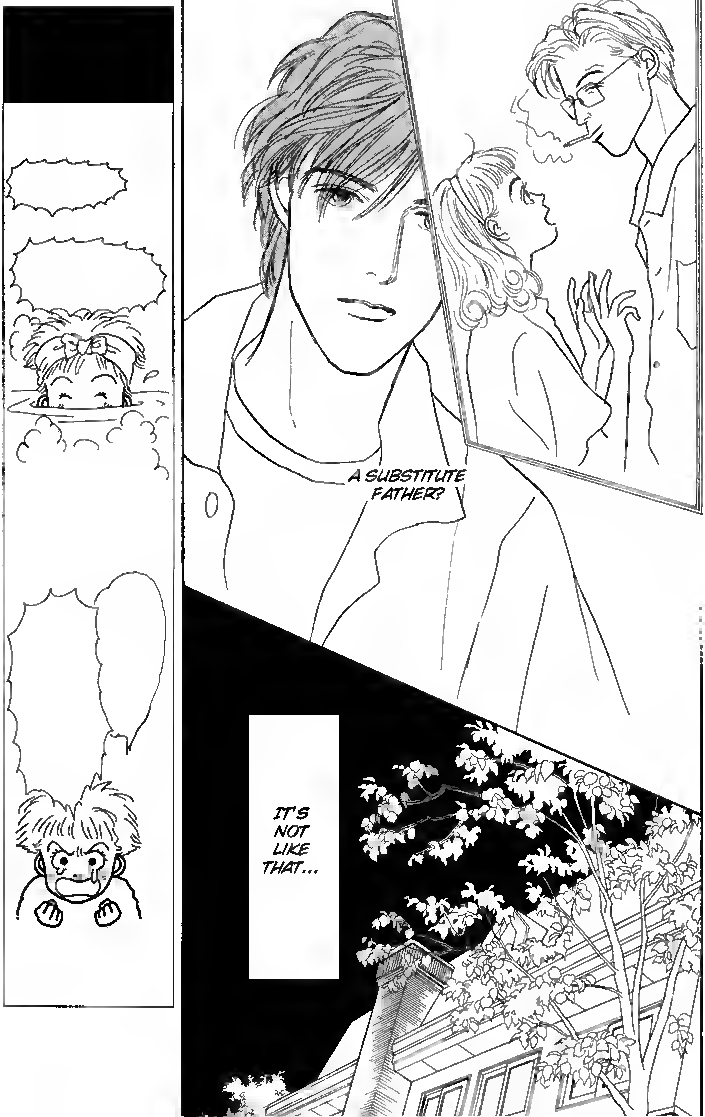

DIRT?
OH FOR HIM IT'S... DIRT... I GUESS


EH? TSUJI-SAN IS IN ENGINEE-RING?
I DON'T GET WHAT'S INTERESTING ABOUT THAT STUFF AT ALL.
HE'S CONSTANTLY IN AND OUT OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT'S RESEARCH LABS, ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT SOIL WITH THE GUYS THERE.
AGRICULTURE? BUT, ISN'T TSUJI-SAN IN THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT?

I don't believe it
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN ....?
I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT HIM AT ALL.
I'M ALWAYS GOING ON AND ON ABOUT TSUIJI-SAN, AND YET
HE ALWAYS, ONE-SIDEDLY, LISTENS TO EVERYTHING I SAY.
BUT
TSUIJI-SAN DOESN'T REALLY TALK ABOUT HIMSELF MUCH....

HAHAHA!
I GUESS WHAT TSUJI SAID WAS TRUE THEN.
SHE'S
JUST TREATING ME LIKE A SUBSTITUTE FATHER SHE CAN TELL ANYTHING TO.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE PAPA DIED
THAT I'VE SPOKEN THIS MUCH JAPANESE
IT'S SOMEHOW


TODAY IN CLASS, THIS BOY BILLY.
LISTEN! LISTEN PAPA!


A SUBSTITUTE FATHER?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...

Oh! A high school girl?!
Is she hot?
SEEMS LIKE THERE'S SOME HIGH SCHOOL GIRL HANGING AROUND THE MAIN GATE LOOKING FOR YOU.
HEY TSUJI!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
HEY.

BEEP
CLATTER
TSUJI-SAN! OH GOOD I FOUND YOU
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I CALLED YOUR APARTMENT YOU NEVER ANSWERED, SO, I THOUGHT MAYBE
IF I CAME HERE I COULD FIND YOU
BUT, UNIVERSITIES ARE REALLY BIG.
.....
.....
glug
glug
glug
EVERYONE IS BUSY RIGHT HOW PREPARING FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
EH? YOU STILL HAVE TO WORK THIS LATE?
SCHOOL FESTIVAL?
I STILL HAVE WORK TO DO FOR THE CLUB SO I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME

WILL YOU SHOW ME AROUND?!
EEEH! A FESTIVAL!?! REALLY? WHEN IS IT? CAN I COME?!
UNIVERSITY FESTIVAL
THE FESTIVAL LASTS 3 DAYS, STARTING NEXT WEEKEND.
BUT,
IF YOU DON'T HAVE SCHOOL, I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND.
TELL ME WHAT WAS SO URGENT?
TSUJI-SAN YOU
AREN'T LIKE MY PAPA
NOT AT ALL.

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LOT, BUT
YOU AREN'T ANYTHING LIKE HIM
SO,
I'M DEFINITELY NOT THINKING OF YOU AS A SUBSTITUTE PAPA
AH.
IT'S ABOUT THAT.
TSUJI-SAN, YOU DON'T TALK VERY MUCH.
BUT, PAPA ALWAYS TALKED, AND TALKED, AND TALKED.
AT NIGHT HE WOULD ALWAYS TALK ABOUT ALL SORTS OF THINGS UNTIL I FELL ASLEEP

IN PAPA'S CASE, HE WAS ALWAYS MUTTERING COMPLAINTS TO HIMSELF-
I'M SURE TSUJI-SAN DOESN'T.
IT...
IT'S DIFFERENT, I THINK
I DON'T REALLY MIND THOUGH, YOU KNOW.
HAHA! THAT'S THE SAME WITH ME
WHEN HE GOT ENGROSSED IN SOMETHING, HE'D EVEN FORGET TO EAT AMIDST A MOUNTAIN OF DOCUMENTS
SO LONG AS BY TALKING TO SOMEONE, YOU CAN RELAX.
IF I'M A SUBSTITUTE FOR YOUR FATHER,
OR, FOR SOMEONE ELSE

IF YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT,
DON'T SAY THAT.
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU WON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT FALLING IN LOVE WITH ME.
FALLING IN LOVE
AH!
YOU JUST LOOKED COMPLETELY SHOCKED!
LIKE YOU COULDN'T EVEN BELIEVE IT!
N... NO...

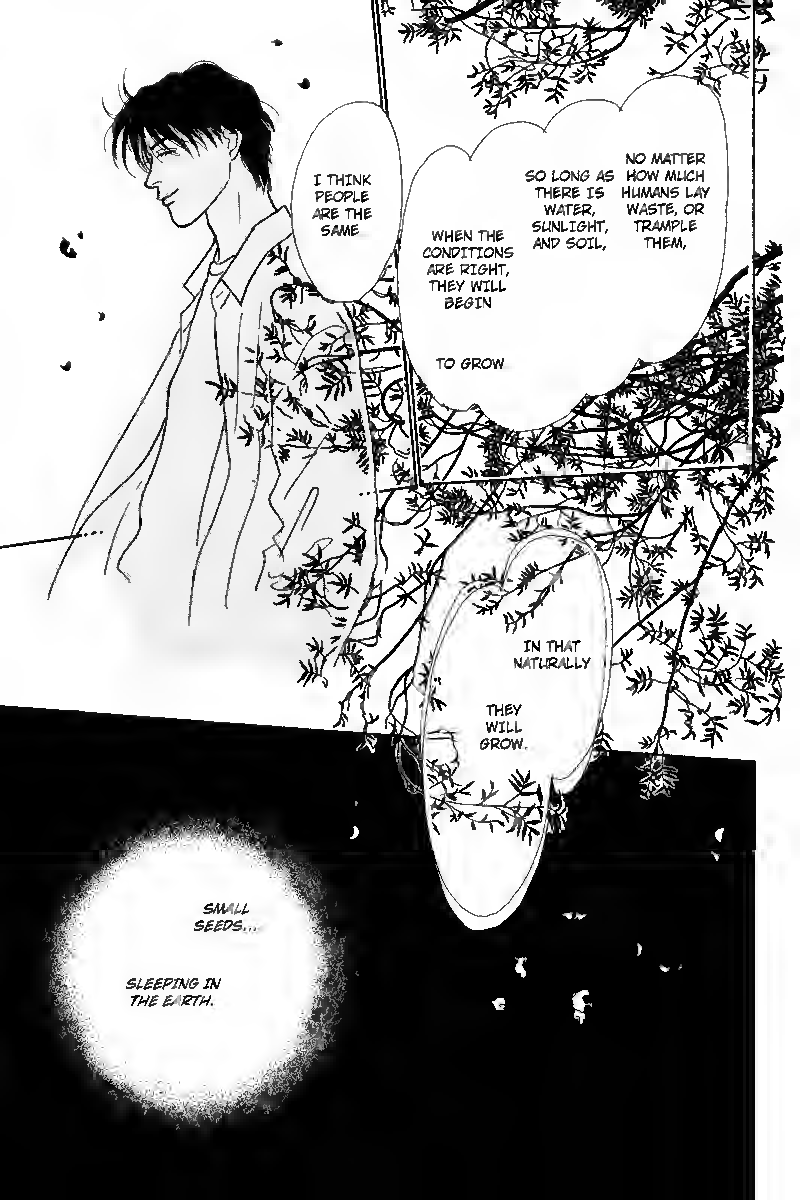
IS IT REALLY NOT THAT IMPORTANT?
FOR YOU HOW ..
TADASHI-SAN'S OUTLOOK ON LOVE IS PRETTY ONE-SIDED
BUT, HOW DO YOU LOVE SOMEONE TSUJI-SAN?
WHAT KIND OF LOVE-
OH TSUJI!
HEY.
MATSUYAMA WAS HERE

HOW WAS IT?
AHA! HE WAS LIKE AN OLD HERMIT ALMOST AS IF HE WAS TALKING WITH THE EARTH
I RECORDED IT, SO COME LISTEN TO IT SOMETIME.
A VIDEO? DID YOU GET A PROPER RECORDING OF IT?
I'M SORRY. YOU'RE SO BUSY
AND I BOTHERED YOU WITH THOSE THINGS

DEEP IN THE MOUN-TAINS OF SHIKOKU
THERE IS A SILENT, SOLITARY, OLD MAN WHO STUDIES NATURAL FARMING METHODS.
LIVING WITH THE EARTH, HE LISTENS TO THE SOUNDS OF PLANTS GROWING
WHILE MAKING "SEED BALLS."
SEED BALLS?

WHERE DO YOU THINK THAT OLD MAN TOOK THOSE SEED BALLS?
?
THEY ARE VERY SIMPLE
YOU MIX TOGETHER SEEDS, MUD, AND THINGS THAT ARE GOOD FOR PLANTS, AND LET THEM DRY OUT.
IN THAT FORM, THE SEEDS INSIDE CAN LAST FOR MANY YEARS
UNTIL, THE RIGHT CONDITIONS ARE NATURALLY SATISFIED
TO AFRICA, A PLACE WHERE FIGHTING CONTINUES
HE WENT TO CREATE A FARM IN THE LAND RUINED BY THE FIRES OF WAR.
BUT, THE ADULTS THERE ALL SCORNED HIM AND REFUSED TO HELP
AT FIRST,
THE ONES WHO PLANTED THE SEED BALLS
WERE THE CHILDREN

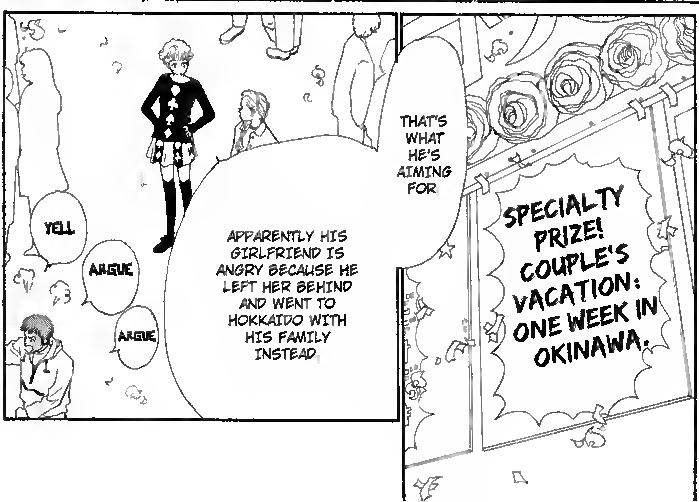
WHAT HAPPENED ?
. SO THEN
A PICTURE OF THE CHILDREN HARVESTING PLANTS AND VEGETABLES AMIDST THRIVING GREENERY
A PICTURE APPEARED IN A JAPANESE NEWSPAPER SOME TIME AGO.
AMAZING


I THINK PEOPLE ARE THE SAME
NO MATTER HOW MUCH HUMANS LAY WASTE, OR TRAMPLE THEM,
SO LONG AS THERE IS WATER, SUNLIGHT, AND SOIL,
WHEN THE CONDITIONS ARE RIGHT, THEY WILL BEGIN
TO GROW
IN THAT NATURALLY
THEY WILL GROW.
SMALL SEEDS...
SLEEPING IN THE EARTH.

THE SUN
AND RAIN
NOT
COMPELLED
BY ANYONE
WITH NATURE'S
STRENGTH ALONE-
AH!

YOU STARTLED ME. WHAT IS IT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
THAT WAS HIS ANSWER...?
IS HE SAYING... THAT LOVE IS THE SAME?
LIKE THAT, NATUR LLY.

5 TICKETS PER PERSON?!
WHY?!
GIMME MORE!
WHAT'S WRONG?
LOOK THAT
THE PRIZE FOR BINGO


SPECIALTY PRIZE! COUPLE'S VACATION: ONE WEEK IN OKINAWA.
THAT'S WHAT HE'S AIMING FOR
APPARENTLY HIS GIRLFRIEND IS ANGRY BECAUSE HE LEFT HER BEHIND AND WENT TO HOKKAIDO WITH HIS FAMILY INSTEAD.
YELL
ARGUE
ARGUE

H...HELLO
THIS IS MY CLASS-MATE SAIJOU MEGUMI-SAN
WAVE WAVE
OVER HERE!
AH! TSUJI-SAN!!
HEY! TSUJI!!
GO BUY THEM RIGHT NOW!
NO
HAVE YOU BOUGHT BINGO CARDS YET?
AH!
HEY, MARUYAMA !!
HAVE YOU BOUGHT CARDS YET?
.....
.....
NO WAIT, BUY THEM FOR ME I'LL GIVE YOU THE MONEY
THEN GIVE ME THE CARDS, OK? OK?

ORANGE!
RING RING
FIRST UP IS-
THE BINGO TOURNAMENT STARTS NOW!
KYA
KYA
OHO, CONGRATULATIONS!
NOW THEN!
FINALLY, IT'S THE SPECIAL PRIZE - THE OKINAWA VACATION!!
LET'S BEGIN!
FIRST, N-29!!
NEXT IS...
Gulp

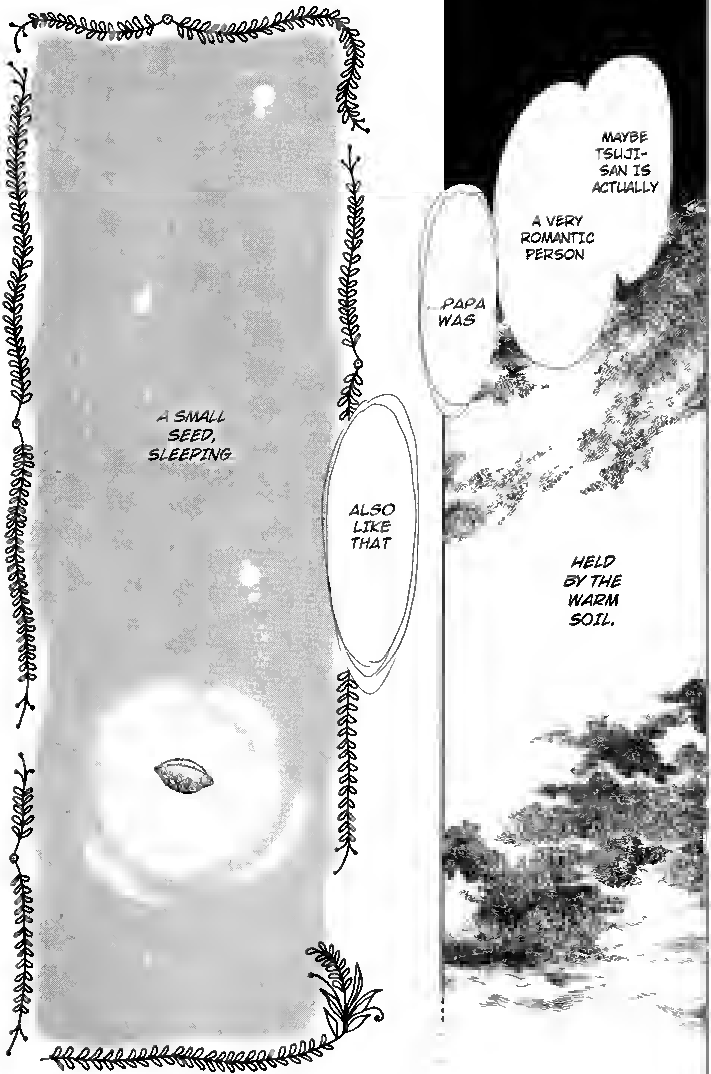
DAAA AMN!!
G-2
I FEEL KIND OF SORRY FOR HIM, I HOPE HE WINS
DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE HIM WIN
HE'S REALLY DESPERATE
AGAIN...
Y... YEAH.
TADASHI-SAN. YOU'LL DEFINITELY WIN! DO YOUR BEST!!

N-31
RI RIICHI
JUST ONE MORE.
GOT IT!
B-63
KYAA! WE GOT IT.
SHOCK
KYAAAAA
BINGO!!
!
TO... TOMO-MI!
Glance
N... NO WAY

EH?
YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?!
CON-GRATU-LATIONS!!
RING RING
I WONDER, WHO SHOULD I GO WITH?
HMMM...
LIH, HEY...
WHO ARE YOU GOING TO GO WITH...?
TOMOMI!
?
.....
WAS YOUR "FORTUNE'S TREASURE" ON VACATION TODAY?

.....
pat pat
snicker
DON'T WORRY.
DON'T WORRY.
BUT IN THE END, THIS WORKED OUT BETTER, REALLY.
BECAUSE
"FORTUNE'S TREASURE" IS STILL GOING STRONG.
THAT NIGHT, TADASHI-SAN
CAME HOME WITH A TRIUMPHANT LOOK HOLDING A TICKET TO OKINAWA

PAPA,
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SEED BALLS?
SMALL SEEDS SLEEP INSIDE OF THEM
SWAYING IN THE WIND.
GREEN
AND SOMEDAY
A SMALL SPROUT WILL EMERGE
THE VIBRANT EARTH
EXTENDING ON FOREVER...


A SMALL SEED, SLEEPING
ALSO LIKE THAT
PAPA WAS
A VERY ROMANTIC PERSON
MAYBE TSUJI-SAN IS ACTUALLY
HELD BY THE WARM SOIL.

SCENE 4 — END